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The Autobiography of William Jerdan.

Vol. I. Hall, Virtue, and Co.

It is with unaffected pain that we proceed to the notice of the work before us. Had we consulted simply our own convenience and desire, we should have permitted 'The Autobiography of William Jerdan' to pass from the press to the hands of the public without one syllable of comment in these columns. There are reasons which will occur at once to the reader why an old man, long connected with literature and literary doings, writing in the evening of his life, as we fear for his daily bread, the history of his long career, should receive from every critic charitable consideration and the tenderest treatment. But the claims of the writer upon the merciful regard of the general censor are increased a hundred-fold with respect to ourselves. The 'Literary Gazette' and Mr. Jerdan have been associated in the public mind for a third of a century. From the year 1817 until 1850, Mr. Jerdan was either sole or part proprietor of this journal, and during the whole of that time its responsible editor. Here, if anywhere, disagreeable truths might be smothered, and favourable traits of character brought prominently to the light. If the whole world should condemn, these columns at least were bound by all the ties of nature to vindicate and applaud. We repeat, it is with a feeling of absolute pain that we attempt to do justice to our vocation and to the public, and at the same time to entertain the pleas which Mr. Jerdan may fairly urge upon our notice. Mr. Jerdan himself, however, has left us no alternative. We had hoped at least to be silent, but he has forced us to speak in terms, the utterance of which cannot but afflict ourselves far more deeply than him. Mr. Jerdan starts, in his biography, with a theory which is not simply unsound, but most mischievous, and calculated in the highest degree to degrade the literary profession and to defraud the literary character—properly so called. It is easy to see, from the frequent repetition of this theory in the volume before us, that in all the succeeding volumes there will be continual harping on the same string, and a never-ending attempt made to mislead the reader's mind upon a point of surpassing interest to the cause of literature, and of the most vital moment in reference to the judgment ultimately to be formed of Mr. Jerdan's character and life. Mr. Jerdan warns his reader from the pursuit of literature with all the anxiety and emphasis with which a father would entreat his child to abide in the path of virtue and of truth. The moral of Mr. Jerdan's life, according to his own estimate of it, and after seventy years' experience of the world, is, that the profession of letters is a curse to the man vain, weak, or frantic enough to adopt it. We cannot allow this misconception to prevail. The legitimate moral of this autobiography is very different indeed; and no consideration, whether of friendship, or of regard for old age and long service, or of natural sympathy, shall induce us to keep it back when it is absolutely necessary for writers and readers to have a clear and satisfactory understanding upon a matter that so intimately concerns them both.

Mr. Jerdan, with grey hairs upon his head, with his threescore years and ten accomplished, after his long life of labour, anxiety,

and literary service, is without the means of further existence, unless the friends whom he has gathered on the way come to his rescue, and stand between him and his fate. We assert that the circumstance is a disgrace to whomsoever is concerned in the catastrophe. But who is to blame? The public or the victim? Has Mr. Jerdan been so ill requited for his industry, so stinted in his rewards, that he has been able to live only from hand to mouth, and to do no more for those who look to him for maintenance and help than supply them with their daily necessary food and clothing? If we answer these questions in the affirmative, then is Mr. Jerdan fully justified in imploring the young to avoid as they would a plague, the miserable calling he has so fruitlessly pursued; and culpable indeed is society which suffers its teachers to be more wretchedly remunerated than the veriest mountebanks that minister to its folly. But herein lies the whole gist of the question at issue between the autobiographer and the public, whom by implication he never tires of rebuking. Investigate the matter fairly, and it shall be found that not one real grievance can Mr. Jerdan bring before any tribunal competent to judge between man and man, whilst society has a thousand charges to lay at the door of this unhappy man of letters, to every one of which, for very shame, he cannot choose but plead guilty.

It will answer no good purpose to withhold the truth on this serious business. Mr. Jerdan is not the only writer who has preferred his accusations against the public, and mourned over general neglect, when he has had in fact nobody to accuse but himself, and when the only thing really worth mourning over has been his own wilful and wicked flinging away of the finest opportunities. Mr. Leigh Hunt published his autobiography a year or two ago, as Mr. Jerdan issues his life to-day. Both writers were stung to the work by pinching necessity, being compelled to anticipate the future by the exigencies of the present; both repeat the cuckoo cry of ill-requited service; both lament again and again the degraded position of the literary profession; both, strange to add, have been liberally rewarded for their writings; both—not so singular to state—have been remarkable for their careless disregard of all the good gifts of fortune, and for their contempt of social duties which it behoves the meanest amongst us as well as the most highly gifted to respect; and both in their very autobiographies illustrate the faults and vices which would be fatal to success in the humblest trade, and which of course are not a whit better calculated to advance the fortunes of the man of genius. We remember Mr. Hunt's work to have been full of apologies for its disconnected form and imperfect nature. Private circumstances, he said, had interfered with the strict fulfilment of a public duty! Well they might have interfered with it when such had been the rule of his life and the true secret of all his failures and complaints! Mr. Jerdan, in a postscript to the first volume of his autobiography, is fain to move an arrest of judgment for errors and inaccuracies on the ground that "private circumstances occurred to break hurtfully into his work, and that on coming to consult data, which the writer had presumed to be readily found and accessible, he discovered that the materials of from forty to fifty years ago were dissipated, no one knew whither!" The apology may be taken as a sample of Mr. Jerdan's life.

His history is told in half a dozen words. He is not a man of substance at this moment, he is thrown from the social eminence upon which his abilities well entitled him to be placed—not because he took to letters in his youth as the substantial pursuit of his life—but because, from beginning to end, wherever and howsoever employed, and with whomsoever engaged, it was the curse of William Jerdan to have "private circumstances occurring to break hurtfully into his work."

A sadder book one shall hardly find than this first volume. It has no method or plan; it is most discursive; it flies from date to date, from incident to incident, from occupation to occupation, with an uneasy restlessness betokening the condition of the writer's mind—the inexactness of his notes—the ragged character of his reminiscences—and the lamentable circumstances under which he has been coerced to his labour. But whilst there is no system or regularity whatever in the narrative, an abiding cloud is spread over it from beginning to end. It could not be otherwise. The career of William Jerdan, written by other hands, could have been no more than a melancholy requiem sung over a misspent life. Composed by himself, it is a feeling lamentation of days sacrificed never to be recalled—of great occasions wantonly given up—of high capabilities wilfully wasted. No wonder that heavy sighs proceed from the depths of the writer's heart as often as he summons to memory some sunny and promising period, when the smiles of Providence were rendered of no avail by his own inexcusable rebellion!—no wonder that every reflection made upon every event that he records is dimmed with the tear of long-delayed regret, or accompanied with the extorted expression of a wholesome remorse!

Mr. Jerdan is a shrewd observer, and an accurate describer of the things he sees; but he seems to have observed nothing to his own advantage, and self-edification does not follow from his descriptions. He tells us, that when he first came to London in 1801, when he was just nineteen years of age, and mixed with some of the first mercantile men of the time, the most "extraordinary effect" was produced upon his mind by remarking that, in the mighty capital, "every man was personally and sedulously occupied with his trade or occupation, and no man, whatever it might be, was above his business." The only useful effect which the sight could produce was the very one which it did not leave upon the mind of William Jerdan. Had he contrived to be personally and sedulously occupied with his profession,—had he never been above his business—happy and serene would have been the close of the day now troubled with chilling clouds. How did it chance that the "extraordinary effect" made upon the mind of Mr. Jerdan's youth had no influence at all upon his conduct, either in early manhood or in the prime of life? How happens it that all experience, all instruction, all admixture with men, all trouble and vexation of spirit, all prosperity, and all adversity could do nothing more for our preacher than furnish him with a text, at the close of his own unsatisfactory career, upon which to build false counsel for the misguidance of a later generation?

In very early life Mr. Jerdan "got his first lesson of that fatal truth, that debt is the greatest curse which can beset the course of a human being." His difficulties, he tells us, at that time, were so distressing in their

nature, that, having recently recovered from a severe sickness, he relapsed at once into serious indisposition. Nothing can be more striking than the homily which the sufferer preaches upon debt, or than the reflections which occurred to him at the time of his calamity; but none of the horrors accompanying the event—not the sickness, not the temporary distress, not the sudden insight given into the hopeless condition of the trammeled debtor, availed to keep Mr. Jerdan, at any subsequent period, from the state of wretchedness he has so piteously described, or to save him from the repetition of a fault, whose first commission brought with it such memorable and afflicting consequences.

Another important lesson was acquired whilst the writer was yet a boy. His earliest friends were Sir Frederick Pollock and the two brothers of Sir Frederick, all three distinguished men. Still more remarkable than the industry and ability of the brothers were their domestic happiness and fraternal union. The heart of William Jerdan beat at the happy spectacle. He has his homily at hand. "How often," he justly writes, "are families kept down or wrecked by the selfish apathies or quarrels of their members; and, on the other hand, how much are they benefited, and how nobly do they rise, when the warm affections, cherished in the home circle, teach them throughout life to love, and use their utmost efforts to help each other!" Well-written sentences, but sentences and nothing more! To write is Mr. Jerdan's vocation; to act in the spirit of his words is, alas! no part of his prescribed obligations. Why should we fear to say that the example of his early friends, grateful as it was, and eloquent as he is in praise of it, made no practical impression upon the observer's mind, and that to "selfish apathy" at the domestic hearth may be referred too many of the sorrows and bitter hours which Mr. Jerdan is so eager to lay at the door of an honourable and dignified profession? We say again it is more painful to trace these words than it can be for Mr. Jerdan to peruse them. But truth must be spoken. Literature is in no way responsible for the calamities of William Jerdan. How many of them are traceable to violation of the domestic affections it is not for us to decide.

Another early friend was the present Lord Truro. The Chief Baron of the Exchequer and the late Lord High Chancellor of England were the boyish friends and equals of the literary man who "now looks, with aspirations crushed, from the clouded bottom of the hill, rejoicing in and admiring, not envying his early comrades, who, having bravely climbed the summit, range along the height, and in happiness enjoy the brilliant region on which, humanly speaking, warm and eternal sunshine settles." Mr. Jerdan pours forth an unavailing regret at his own terrible miscarriage when he comes to compare his melancholy fate with the illustrious achievements of his once familiar associates. If the regret could lead to profitable amendment of life, or even to a proper appreciation of the true reasons of his failure, we might listen with patience if not with satisfaction to the sorrow. But this is very far indeed from being the case. Hear Mr. Jerdan's account of this interesting matter:—

"On the talents displayed at our club assemblages in Mr. Pollock's chambers, it does not become me to deliver an opinion; for I was not a laggard in the race. * * * David and Frederick

Pollock and Thomas Wilde were the most active and distinguished contributors. * * * My prospects were apparently as bright as theirs; my cleverness (not to use a vainer phrase) was only too much acknowledged. * * * Why then did my friends so nobly succeed, and why did I, ultimately, so grievously fail? The reasons are not far to seek. I unsteadily forsook the choice of a profession, and within a few years found myself leaning for life on the fragile crutch of literature for my support. * * * Let no man be bred to literature alone; for, as has been far less truly said of another occupation, it will not be bread to him. Fallacious hopes, bitter disappointments, uncertain rewards, vile impositions, and censure and slander from the oppressors, are their lot, as sure as ever they put pen to paper for publication, or risk their peace of mind on the black, black sea of printer's ink. With a fortune to sustain, or a profession to stand by, it may still be bad enough; but without one or the other it is as foolish as alchemy, as desperate as suicide."

What a tissue of falsehood and unpardonable misrepresentation is here! Mr. Jerdan did not "unsteadily forsake the choice of a profession," for literature is a profession as ennobling as any, and in these days as remunerative as most; but having presumed to enter that honourable calling, he "unsteadily forsook" the only paths by which the world's good opinion is obtained, self-respect acquired, and fortune won, let the wayfarer's pursuit be what it may. Had Mr. Jerdan followed the law, he would never have reached the eminence attained by Sir Frederick Pollock, much less the proud position fought for and gained, under every possible disadvantage, by the ex-Lord Chancellor. The social failings that rendered Mr. Jerdan's abilities of no avail to him in literature would have been his stumbling-block in every profession and in any trade. Has he ever taken the trouble to calculate the self-denial, the steady perseverance, the patient self-devotion, which enabled Sir Frederick Pollock to make his upward way from the time he entered the University of Cambridge until he finally took his seat on the bench, or to count the cost of the difficult and fearful journey so well accomplished by Baron Truro? Does he conceive for a moment, if these deservedly honoured men had taken no pains to secure the respect of the world by cultivating their own—had been profuse when they should have been abstinent—had been extravagant when they should have been moderate—had been reckless of all things but the mere enjoyment of the moment, that they also would not have shared the fate of their early companion, and lived to be abashed with him at the triumph of rivals, and the success of fellow labourers wiser in their generation than themselves, and more alive to the duties incumbent upon all who hope to reach the prizes held out by society for its worthiest sons? We indignantly deny that "fallacious hopes, bitter disappointments, uncertain rewards, vile impositions, and censure and slander," are the lot of all men "as sure as ever they put pen to paper for publication." They may be, and no doubt are, the lot of the degraded in every class, but they are not the lot of Hallam, of Macaulay, and of Dickens; they are not the lot of Southey, of Alison, and of Wilson; they are not the lot of the men whose writings shine in the public press, or of others who, like Samuel Warren, have derived all their fame and social consideration not from the professions to which they are attached, but exclusively from their connexion with the national literature which they have been

privileged to enrich. We fearlessly ask, what department of literature is that which is chary of substantial reward to the claimant whose heart is upright, whose industry is incessant, and whose claim to the title of a literary man is generally allowed? We shall be grateful for an answer, for we have yet to learn that the righteous doom of the spendthrift and the libertine represents the recompense which, under God's providence, attends the virtuous well-doer, whether in the retirement of the study or amidst the ledgers and cash-books of the counting-house.

Of all living men, Mr. Jerdan has perhaps the least reason to complain of inadequate remuneration, of "uncertain reward," and of the censure and slander of his fellows. Few men have received more sympathy than he, or been treated with more delicate forbearance. He has found friends throughout his lengthened public career, and at the close of it many have come to his rescue to whom it would not be difficult to discover a sufficiently valid excuse for standing aloof. His remuneration for years was most handsome. As editor of the 'Sun,' in 1813, he was well paid according to his own account; and as editor and part proprietor of the 'Literary Gazette,' it is matter of notoriety that he drew for years a considerable income. If Mr. Jerdan has been foolish enough, year after year, to spend more than he earned—to make no provision for his family when Providence put the means in his way—to exhibit no self-government and no moral strength, we are sorry for him, and can pity his present blank and dreary lot. But let him not visit upon literature the calamities of his own creating, or slander the profession of his adoption, which he and men like him injure by their connexion far more than they honour it by their genius, however distinguished that may be.

The autobiography makes very little progress in the first volume, but as much as is revealed indicates with sufficient clearness many of the causes of Mr. Jerdan's failures throughout life. Instability is stamped upon all his labours and pursuits. He is first a clerk in London, but he soon quits that employment to apply himself to the law. He does not live long in Edinburgh with Mr. Cornelius Elliott, Writer to the Signet, before he discovers that he does not like law, and he returns again to the metropolis with idle habits acquired, and without any fixed purpose for the future. He gets into debt and difficulty as before intimated, and becomes, for one year, surgeon's clerk in Her Majesty's navy. Thrown upon London again as a literary adventurer, he secures an appointment on the 'Pilot' evening newspaper, afterwards is attached to the 'Morning Post,' and subsequently edits with great profit, as he admits, country papers which were content to import from London all the original articles that adorned their columns. In 1813, he is appointed editor of the 'Sun,' with 500/- a-year and a tenth share of the property; and in 1814, upon the opening of the Continent by the Allies, he visits Paris in order to behold a sight to which at the time all thronged who could afford to make the journey. With the visit to Paris the volume closes, as far as the autobiography is concerned. Nearly a hundred pages (the autobiography occupies two hundred) of appendix follow, which have little to do with the main current of the story, as the reader will believe when he learns that about fifty of these pages are taken up with

an unpublished poem of poor Tom Hood. There is fancy and beauty in the romance, but there is no more reason why it should constitute a makeweight to Mr. Jerdan's life, than for its being added to the next edition of the works of Mr. Robert Montgomery. Some of the anecdotes that appear in the volume are interesting and singular from their connexion with well-known names; others are outrageously improbable; and the whole production gives evidence of having been written in haste, without the proper materials at hand, and rather with the view of an instant return—ever a cruel necessity in Mr. Jerdan's life—than with the deliberate object of permanently instructing the public by the authentic records, the enlightened reflections, and the wholesome confessions of a literary man, who has travelled through the world in pain, trouble, and sorrow, only because he did not choose to live prosperous, happy, and respected.

China, during the War and since the Peace.

By Sir John Francis Davis, Bart., F.R.S., late Her Majesty's Plenipotentiary in China, and Governor of Hongkong. 2 vols.

Longman and Co.

THAT we are on the eve of witnessing important changes in the countries of the remote East, many events conspire to prove. The fleets of the two great Anglo-Saxon nations, from across the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans, are now about to meet in the Chinese seas. What England lately compelled China to do, is likely to be repeated by America in the still more exclusive territory of Japan. The opening of the Chinese ports to foreign commerce has prepared the way for the entrance of the learning and science and religion of Europe, and already the long dominant charm of Celestial superiority is broken. Barbarians, it is found, have some knowledge on certain subjects, and learned mandarins have even condescended to publish to their countrymen the results of their researches. A work was compiled in 1844, by no less a personage than the Imperial Commissioner Lin, in fifty books, and twelve volumes, entitled 'Statistical Notices of the Kingdoms of the West,' in which a great amount of heterogeneous information was collected. The desire to know about foreign nations has since increased; Christian missionaries have also been diligent in circulating the Scriptures, and the rays of truth, sacred and secular, have already disturbed the old reign of intellectual and spiritual darkness. In Japan, the Americans, as pioneers of civilization, will have to begin on still lower ground. To force these barbarous islanders of the East to some recognition of international usages, and of the claims of humanity, is the first object of the expedition from the United States. Strange that this should be the mission of the descendants of people of the isles of the West, once best known to the civilized world for the very cruelty which is now bringing the Japanese into notice—*Britannos hospitibus feros!* We trust that the Americans, in any treaty they may make, will act as liberally as the English did in China, in obtaining for all nations the rights claimed by themselves. In less than three years the Chinese treaty expires, and the new negotiations then requisite may still more rapidly hasten the movement of Oriental affairs. At the present time, moreover, a revolutionary war is spreading in the

empire, threatening to become a general war of dynasty and of races. For two hundred years past the existing Tartar dynasty has retained power, and the Chinese people have been in much the same political position towards their conquerors that the Saxons bore to the Normans in England for the same period after the Conquest. But now the restoration of the Ming (native) dynasty is sought by arms, and the latest accounts describe the rebels as having the upper hand in several provinces. Besides these movements in the countries themselves, they are being brought daily nearer to the busy progressive world. No long period can elapse before the Mediterranean and Indian seas on the east are connected by a railway across the Isthmus of Suez, and the line between Chagres and Panama, now in progress, will soon unite the Atlantic and Pacific oceans on the west. When the earth comes thus to be girdled by steam and rail in about a hundred days, and the traffic of those seas increases from the rapid spread of population in Australia and the western regions of America, the Chinese and Indo-Chinese nations can no longer remain shut out from the rest of mankind as heretofore, but must begin to play some part in the general history of the world.

It is from this political aspect of the future, even more than the historic view of the past, that the appearance of this work of Sir John Davis on China is most opportune and important. The narrative of the war, the first of any consequence in which the Chinese had been engaged with a European power, being chiefly compiled from native official documents, will afford much amusement to those who have only read British accounts of the same events. Not much new information is, however, given as to China 'during the war.' But of what has been going on 'since the peace' fewer have knowledge, and the description of the existing state of affairs, by one so peculiarly qualified to give it, is full of interest and value. The concluding chapters on the Indo-Chinese nations were prepared before the news arrived of the American expedition to Japan, the object of which, the author states in a prefatory note, is an opportune confirmation of the views and expectations he expresses in his work.

The first volume, containing the account of the war, is in fact a Chinese history, being founded on official papers, captured or otherwise collected, of which translations and abstracts were prepared by Dr. Gutzlaff, which Sir John Davis now arranges into a consecutive narrative. This part of the work is more curious than useful, or at least is more valuable for the light it throws on Chinese character than on Chinese history. The ignorance, vanity, and mendacity of the native writers are astonishing, and the despatches sent up to Pekin in the early part of the war have no parallels in official effrontery. On the arrival of the English, 'the barbarians' were described as "an insignificant and detestable race, trusting entirely to their strong ships," plans for the certain and speedy destruction of which were detailed. The troops on board were declared to lack sufficient activity for fighting, and the Emperor was assured that "the English soldier is buttoned up so tight, that, if once down, he can never get up again." Yukien, the Governor of Keangsoo province, on hearing the capture of Chusan, published a proclamation ending thus:—

"With no other resource than their ships, which require a draft of sixty cubits of water, they cannot approach our main, and therefore have taken Ting-hae, encompassed on all sides by the sea. With us it is quite different; and every one of us may therefore without fear take care of his own gate, and not trouble himself about them. I look upon these enemies as mere bulrushes, having from my youth upwards read military treatises, and spread the terror of my name myriads of miles through Turkestan. Since the trade at Canton was stopped, I took precautionary measures; and if they dare to come to our shores, they will be like the moth in the candle, or the fish in the net. History proves that even our southern soldiers were victorious, and only want a leader to be so again. While, therefore, I guard the interior, the governor-general of the two provinces will take charge of the coast, so that every one may rest quietly on his pillow, and not let himself be disturbed by these robbers, who will instantly be put down by the military."

As the war proceeded, and the extermination of the invaders was not effected, new methods of tactics were taken up from time to time with much enthusiasm. One proposed that the enemy should be involved in dense clouds of smoke, and attacked in the confusion; another that expert divers should destroy the rudders of the ships, or bore holes in their bottoms; while a third sagely advised that sulphur and saltpetre should be prohibited as exports, and the barbarians thus be cut off from supplies of gunpowder. We must refer to the book for the Chinese story of the war, from the first outbreak of hostilities in 1840 to the final establishment of peace in 1844. There is a good deal of confusion, from the repetition in the second volume of some parts of the same narrative in the British version of it, but on the whole the division of the work is judiciously arranged.

Of Lin, Keshen, Keying, and other Celestial grandees, whose names were famous for a time in our western world, many details are given. Of Keying, Sir John Davis speaks respectfully, as indeed most of the English have done with whom he came in contact:—

"Keying was by far the most elevated in rank, as well as the most estimable in character, of any persons with whom the representatives of European states in China have ever come in contact. During a course of four years' intercourse and negotiation, I had a fair opportunity of forming an estimate, and when he only occasionally betrayed that departure from conventional stipulations which is the constant failing of most Chinese ministers, these instances might be attributed rather to the difficulties of his position than to the bias of his natural temper. * * * *

"Keying, towards the end of November, 1845, visited Hongkong at my invitation, and passed four or five days there. He was much pleased with his voyage from Canton in one of Her Majesty's steamers, sent up expressly for him, and renewed the expression of his anxious desire to promote friendship between the two countries. In a cruise round the entire island, with Sir Thomas Cochrane and myself, on board the Pluto steamer, he evinced some surprise at the progress made in so short a time in the way of roads and buildings, and occasionally surveyed these (to him) novel objects with a look of abstraction, as if meditating on the great change wrought by the war which he had so lately contributed mainly, with Eleepoo, to bring to a conclusion."

That all the Chinese were neither cowards nor liars, such men as Governor Eleepoo, straightforward and honest, and Admiral Kwan, chivalrous and brave, nobly testified. Kwan defended the Bogue batteries till the defences were in ruins, and he died at his

post, receiving the bayonet of a marine in his breast, a death which many army surgeons say is so rare that they have never seen a bayonet wound. When the body was taken away next day by his relations, minute guns were fired from the *Blenheim*, in honour of the bravery of the old man. Another hero of the war was General Yang, famous for the length of his beard and of his sword, the former of which he tied up in two knots before going into action, and the latter he chiefly used in poking up his soldiers to the fight. M. Hue also has described this warrior, and referring to the use of his sword, says—"This way of commanding an army may seem very strange, but those who have lived among the Chinese will be sensible that the military genius of General Yang was based on a knowledge of his troops."

But we must hasten to point out briefly the leading topics of the second and more important volume of Sir John Davis's work. The following are the principal articles of the English treaty, ratified at the close of the war:—

"1. British subjects were to carry on their mercantile pursuits, and to be allowed to reside 'without molestation or restraint,' at the 'cities and towns,' not only of Canton, but Amoy and Foochow-foo in Fokien province, Ningpo in Chekiang, and Shanghai in Keangnan.

"2. The Emperor of China agreed to abolish the exclusive privileges of the Hong merchants, and to permit British merchants to carry on their trade at all the five ports with whatever persons they chose.

"3. He agreed to establish at all the five ports a fair and permanent tariff of export and import duties, the said tariff to be publicly notified and promulgated for general information.

"4. The English government was to enact the laws necessary for the control of its own subjects in China, who were to be under the immediate authority of consular officers stationed at each of the five ports, and amenable only to them, under the Plenipotentiary.

"5. The chief functionary of the British crown in China was to correspond with the Chinese high officers, both at the capital and in the provinces, on terms of perfect equality: and the same rule was to be observed between the subordinate officers of the two countries respectively."

Of the five cities, the Chinese cinque ports for free trade, valuable notices are given, with remarks as to their special advantages. Chusan is very favourably spoken of in one place, but afterwards, when a comparison is drawn between it and Hongkong, the former settlement is described in terms of disparagement somewhat irreconcilable with the previous statement of its value.

Of European missionaries and their labours in this new field Sir John Davis speaks with encouraging praise, especially where medical and educational efforts are combined with doctrinal instruction. Under the new young Emperor full toleration is allowed to all religious opinions, and the number of Protestant missionaries, English and American, now in China is about forty. The Romish church has long laboured from time to time in China, but the native converts have scarcely been distinguished from those around them:—

"The extraordinary resemblances between the external rites of Buddhism and Romanism—candles, idols, incense, genuflexions, rosaries,—all conduce to the ease of conversion, and when we add the facile terms on which proselytes are admitted, there is no more room for wonder at the numbers that are made. The chief idol of the Chinese is called *Tien-hou*, 'Queen of Heaven,' and *Shing Moo*, 'Holy Mother,' corresponding exactly with the *Regina Celi*, and the *Sancta Dei genitrix* of Rome. When the Emperor Kanghy was besought by the Jesuits to be baptized, he always excused himself by saying, 'that he worshipped the same deity with the Christians.'"

The chapter on Japan will be read with additional interest at the present time. Of previous accounts of the islands abstracts are given, especially of the 'Voyage of H.M.S.

Samarang, under Sir Edward Belcher,' and the last English visit, H.M. sloop of war, *Mariner*, Commander Matheson, in May, 1849. The effect of the Chinese war has been apparent in the increased civility of the natives of these regions to foreigners, and the American expedition will probably extend this lesson to nations hitherto more remote from commerce and civilization.

The Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society, No. 30, for May, 1852. Geological Society of London, and Longman and Co.

THE perusal of this number of the proceedings of a Society which through a course of thirty years has been tolerably true to its proposed objects, has satisfied us that it makes several claims on our notice. It presents the statistical condition and the President's review of the scientific progress of the Society for 1851; there are, besides, the reports of several communications which have been read to it, respecting which it may perhaps be as well that the administrators of the affairs of the Society should receive some friendly warning and advice.

The scientific associations with special objects must be prepared for diminished numbers. The Geological Society of London has now lived the term of one generation of men; with the extinction of the race of first promoters of any object, abatement of zeal and symptoms of decline begin to show themselves. The character of a progressive study so changes as even to become distasteful to some, and not less striking is the change in the relations of the men and minds of the second set of labourers. Again, the geology of Somerset House has not the attractions of former years. Those who came to hear the fun, and were seldom disappointed, may perhaps complain that it has grown prematurely matter-of-fact; that there were giants, too, in those days. To all this we can only answer that geology has ceased to be the tale of wonders it was then, and that giants are found only in the realms of Faërie. For all this, as for other influences which may tend to diminish the numbers of such Societies, we would not that those should yet despair who are anxious to see some few branches of the sciences of observation promoted by the independent labours of such as feel a taste and fitness for them.

We are glad to see that the Anniversary Address has again become a systematic digest of the contributions of the year. This practice was departed from by the predecessor of the present President, and we think unhappily. The admirable essays which were substituted were directed against tendencies to which the published papers of the Society had not shown any inclination. But for this break, (which we excused at the time, 'Literary Gazette,' 1851, p. 266, on account of the prevalent and pernicious fallacy of those tendencies,) and that caused by another President, who vanished, leaving no sign at all, the series of addresses which commenced with Dr. Fitton in 1827, would now present a continuous history of the progress of British geological industry.

There is no part of the series of terrestrial changes as to which more general misapprehension exists than respecting the successive physical conditions which the Northern hemisphere presented during what is popularly known as the glacial period. The complicated

phenomena which belong to this period have formed the subject matter of several communications, and the President's own studies were specially directed to that of its lower temperature. The subject therefore engages a considerable portion of the address, and as it is one which can be discussed without the usual technicalities of the science, we think it will promote a conviction that the geological changes, as indicated by plants and animals, are merely the results of changes in physical geography.

It is not, however, so much on account of what is good in the present number of this journal that we direct attention to it, as for the tendencies which some of the papers present. By far too large a portion is taken up by statements of personal claims, personal laudation, or the angry tones of personal controversy. There are two papers on Australian gold; the first narrates that the Rev. W. Clark commenced his geological researches in Eastern Australia in 1841, that he there discovered gold, and that from some subsequent researches he was led to regard it as a gold region of considerable promise. But quite enough had already been made of this in local papers, English papers, and blue-books. These pretensions seem to have roused a distinguished geologist at home, as the paper of Mr. Clark is immediately followed by one "On the Anticipation of the Discovery of Gold in Australia." It might have been worded, "On the Fulfilment of certain Geological Prophecies." It is dangerous to prophesy, but if men do so, they should carefully conceal the sources of their inspiration. We do not propose to examine into the value of what the author of this paper calls his "constants," but we object to the admission of the paper; we think it injudicious. Those whom we deem to have been most truly possessed of the gifts of divination have awaited the award of after times. One litigated case would have been more than enough for one number; but the volume closes with a long pleading in a case which we are sorry to see has come constantly before the same court, and can be traced back through its reports, each time presenting some new form, till, like the celebrated suit of Jarndyce and Jarndyce, it has become so complicated that no one knows what it means, except that it relates to geological rights on some of the bleakest parts of Wales.

Narrative of a Residence in Siam. By F. A. Neale. Office of the National Illustrated Library.

"OUR own impression," says the *Spectator*, "of the effect which the opening of the trade may have upon the current style of literature is, that it will incalculably augment an evil already overgrowing,—the enormous number of new books." The publications of the National Illustrated Library present a foretaste of this effect, and we recommend them to the serious attention of all who are interested in the question upon which Lord Campbell is preparing to give judgment. A lucky adventurer, having a fancy for trading in cheap knowledge, suddenly turns his attention to book-making. Judging of literature as of ordinary commodities of trade, he embarks under an impression that knowledge is to be purchased as abundantly and readily as corn in Mark Lane. The article is, however, scarce; the supply limited. Compilers and translators are set to work with indis-

criminate haste, and illustrative woodcuts are concocted, part real and part imaginary. After a time, something original is needed;—an author is found to write as per order.

Any one would suppose on reading the foregoing title, that the book under review is the narrative of a traveller just returned from Siam. It is nothing of the sort. The National Illustrated Library being in want of an original book of travels, Mr. F. A. Neale, the author of a truthful and unaffected narrative of 'Eight Years in Syria, Palestine, and Asia Minor,' reviewed by us in September last, is tempted 'for a consideration' to rub up his memory, and write a book out of his youthful recollections in Siam, prior to his long residence in Syria. The author is, however, to be commended for his honesty. The facts of the case are stated by themselves in a short introductory paper, specially called the 'Author's Preface,' and signed F. A. Neale. Here it is acknowledged that the writer undertook to compile this book "partly from notes, partly from a pretty retentive memory." And he goes on to say,—"At the period of my visit to that distant Eastern empire, I was, though even then somewhat of a traveller, quite young both in years and understanding; were it not for this, I should have most assuredly amassed more valuable information to offer to the public; but geographical information and statistics are not often the hobbies of youth, and a shooting party or a rowing match had, at that period, more charms for me than the pursuit of more useful knowledge." Now immediately preceding this preface, and first to attract the attention of the reader, appears another short introductory paper without any signature, called an 'Advertisement.' In this it is endeavoured to show that Mr. Neale's book will prove to be of peculiar interest to the British public at the present moment on account of the Burmese war. "With the territory of Siam, lying as it does between the Burmese empire, with which we are now at war, and the confines of China, we must ultimately have greater intercourse than we have hitherto had." We have looked in vain among Mr. Neale's juvenile reminiscences for any important political bearings, or for any suggestion of the means of opening up a greater intercourse with Siam. The 'advertisement' is merely a bait; the book a flippant cooking up of stale incidents and inventions, which the author probably never thought of publishing until a new and original book of travels was wanted for the Illustrated National Library.

As an example of the author's style, we cannot do better than quote the very first page of the book:—

"Having travelled over the greater part of the Madras Presidency, and revelled in its mangoes, been at Bombay and tasted its famed ducks (a species of fish), sojourned at Penang and Malacca, and feasted on mangostins, I found myself, in the spring of 1840, a *dilettante* at Singapore, a waster of time and dollars, with a wish to remain and a desire to depart, and in a sad unsettled state of mind as to the next part of the world most desirable to visit, for even China and Sumatra were stale to me."

"In this dilemma I one day encountered the captain of a fine Bombay ship, called the *Adelaide*. I had before made a voyage with her from Penang to Tellicherry on the Malabar coast, and a merry time we had of it on board."

"Holloa!" exclaimed the captain, "you here! why what port are you bound for now?"

"That is just the question I was about to put to you myself," was my rejoinder.

"Oh, as for me," he replied, "I am bound for Bangkok, in Siam, and sail to-morrow evening if the weather permits,—a queer outlandish place it is,—and if you have nothing better to do, take a trip down there with me; I'll go bound you won't repent the voyage."

"Agreed," said I; and agreed it was. I went to mine hotel, packed up my effects, took an affectionate farewell of mine hostess, bid adieu to Singapore, and got into a boat that rowed manfully for the good ship *Adelaide*."

The good ship *Adelaide* "was spanking away under all available sail," when "a little mizzling rain warned us of an approaching storm." Feeling assured that a typhoon was raging in the China Seas, "we worked tack and tack as the squalls shifted; towards midnight the squalls became more violent, and kept on stiffening till they settled down into a gale, the gale became a hurricane, and the hurricane a tornado that turned into a typhoon." The scene is then described with its concomitant horrors in a manner which none but Mr. T. P. Cooke could appreciate; and the publishers liberally give a whole page woodcut of a ship in a typhoon.

As another example of the author's 'retentive memory,' we give his account of the arrival of the ship at Bangkok among a troop of American missionaries:—

"The tide was now setting against us, and although the distance to our proper anchorage off the British factory was trivial and easy of accomplishment, the captain was afraid of getting entangled with some of the many craft lying in the river, and so dropped anchor just opposite the Portuguese Consulate, where also resided a board of American missionaries—a regular set of Jonathans—who came off immediately, and commenced guessing and calculating to an extent that would 'whip spiders into a bale of silk,' and which completely destroyed the illusion of the magnificent view I had been enjoying.

"I guess, Cap'en, you got some crackers aboard for my wife? They came all the way from Carolina, and I'll thank you to give 'em up."

"Who the — (he very nearly went the whole extent) are you?" exclaimed the blunt old skipper; "and what are ye, to think that I am going to look after your crackers at this time of night, and with the vessel swinging-to."

"I'll write to the Board, Captaining," snuffed the enraged Yankee, "and it will be quite a long day before you bring any more crackers, or any other cargo, for us missionaries—quite a long day, I guess;" and repeatedly murmuring this to himself, he, uninvited, took a seat, and allowed his wrath to calm down in the contemplation of the good cheer spread on the cuddy-table. Many of these gentlemen were celebrated for the like cool proceedings. One man, Brother O——, a tall lank specimen of humanity clad in seedy black, (so tall that he might have been twin-brother, for aught I know to the contrary, to the celebrated American who labours under this inconvenience to such an extent as to be obliged to climb up a ladder every morning to shave himself,) betook himself, wife, children, bags, baggage, and all, on board of the *W. S. Hamilton*, an English vessel, on the point of sailing for Singapore and Liverpool, without any previous intimation of his intentions to the captain, or any soul on board. The captain, who was entertaining a select party of friends at a farewell champagne dinner, and who, with the rest, had partaken freely of that enlivening beverage, was quite *taken aback*, as he himself expressed it, at the sudden and unexpected apparition, but cheerfully invited the new comers to be seated at the festive board. Brother O—— stalked unceremoniously past the table, without deigning to notice any one in the room, until he had gained the door of the stern cabin, which having surveyed with an approving glance, and casting a look in which horror, contempt, and pity were admirably mingled, on the *devilish crew* imbibing strong drinks, broke forth

into the following queries, with an unmistakeable tone of command.

"Yankee: 'Captaining! you are going to Singapore!'

"Captain (in amazement): 'I am, sir.'

"Yankee: 'And you go right away after sundown?'

"Captain (coolly): 'Perhaps yes; perhaps no.'

"Yankee (more coolly still): 'Well, I guess I'll take this cabin for me and my partner and the precious children. We'll put our boxes here and our beds there. We'll eat in our cabin because we abhor winebibbers who have red eyes'—a pause—'and, Captaining! when we get to Singapore I'll give you thirty dollars!' (very loud and emphatically.)"

Now this is all very amusing so far as it goes, but what can the vagaries of a youthful traveller in the East in 1840 have to do with the present Burmese war, or with the increase of our existing commercial relations in Siam? And what occasion is there to publish them at all? We have enough of amateur travels of the day, without going back for what has been fitly left unrecorded in time past.

Such publications as these must give us pause before putting books on the same free-trade footing as corn and bread; and giving book-makers the same unrestricted facilities as bakers. The humbug of cheap literature is beginning to show itself, notwithstanding the assertion of Mr. Gladstone to his applauding listeners in the House of Commons, that by cheap publications the monopoly of the book market, which is a disgrace to the present state of civilization, is partially mitigated.

NOTICES.

Life of Dr. John Reid, late Chandos Professor of Anatomy and Medicine in the University of St. Andrews. By George Wilson, M.D. Sutherland and Knox.

ABOUT twenty years ago, when the medical school of Edinburgh was in the zenith of its prosperity, Dr. John Reid commenced his professional career as demonstrator to Dr. Robert Knox, who then had one of the largest classes of anatomy ever formed in this country. In this post he remained for several years, valued by the pupils for his attention and ability as a teacher, and beloved for his uprightness and honesty as a man. On the death of Dr. Fletcher, in 1836, a vacancy occurred in the extra-academical lectureships, which there seemed to be much difficulty in filling up. On this, the unusual and honourable step was taken of presenting to Dr. Reid a requisition to deliver a course of lectures on physiology, which was signed by nearly a hundred medical men, or others, who would attend the class. To this call Dr. Reid reluctantly acceded, and having by diligent study prepared himself for his new duties, he acquitted himself in a way that secured universal praise. His subsequent career, first in Edinburgh, and afterwards in St. Andrews, is well known to all interested in scientific medical pursuits. His physiological, anatomical, and pathological researches, which are collected in one volume, are considered as among the most valuable contributions made in recent times to these departments of inquiry. The later years of his life were passed in the suffering and anxiety of a lingering disease; and he had to undergo three operations in the ineffectual attempt to check the progress of a malignant cancer in the tongue and throat. The account of his mental state before and during his illness forms a principal part of Dr. Wilson's book, and the features of character which are brought out raise the sympathy and affection of every reader for the subject of the memoir. The deepening intensity of his religious feelings, the heroic patience displayed by him, the conscientious persistence in discharge of all his public and relative duties, and other points, are full of instructive and solemn lessons to thoughtful men. It is a volume at once of Christian and of scientific

biography, and a more useful book could not be put into the hands of young men beginning their medical studies. Several brief memoirs of Dr. Reid have already appeared in various periodicals, as by Professors Bennett, Fergusson, Carpenter, and Dr. Cormack of Putney. These related almost entirely to his medical and scientific researches. Dr. Wilson has compiled his work from family papers and correspondence, as well as from public documents, and the communications of friends, and has produced a memoir worthy of the subject of it, written with much ability and good feeling, and proving the biographer to be as much at home with regard to the topics here discussed, as in his own department of chemistry in the 'Life of Cavendish.'

A Smaller Classical Dictionary of Biography, Mythology, and Geography. Abridged from the larger Dictionary. By William Smith, LL.D. Illustrated by two hundred Engravings on Wood. Murray.

DR. SMITH'S Classical Dictionary is too well known and its fame too firmly established to require our saying more than that it has displaced all other similar works from every school which keeps pace with the learning of the times. But while adapted for College use, or for the higher forms of public schools, teachers have found that work unsuitable both from its size and price for their junior pupils. Abridgements of Lemprière, and other manuals, have accordingly continued in general use. The 'Smaller Classical Dictionary' thoroughly supplies a desideratum for scholastic use, having all the accuracy and soundness of learning which marks the larger work, the matter selected being suited for those not far advanced in classical studies. The woodcuts are from designs executed with his usual skill and taste by Mr. George Scharf.

Notes, Explanatory and Practical, on the Book of Revelation. By the Rev. Albert Barnes. With Preface, by Dr. E. Henderson. Knight and Son. THIS volume forms the last of the series of Barnes' Notes on the New Testament. The work has been one of great and deserved popularity on both sides of the Atlantic. Of the volume containing 'The Gospels,' about twenty editions have already been sold, and two reprints of the earlier part of the work have been appearing in England with keen competition. Since the decision of Lord Campbell in the copyright question, the present edition is alone authorized, and the author has had the advantage, in his two concluding volumes, of that protection. The 'Notes on Revelation' are the result of much research, and as the author came to the subject without any preconceived opinions, he has endeavoured to give an impartial view of the best interpretation of previous commentators. In this he has been generally successful; but he has erred in following too closely Mr. Elliott, who has shown himself not very scrupulous in dealing with authorities, when his political or ecclesiastical theories are concerned. To give but one instance. In illustrating 'The First Seal,' Mr. Elliott wishes to prove that he who went forth 'conquering and to conquer' is a Roman Emperor. Among other proofs, he gives, from Montfaucon's 'Antiquities,' the drawing of an *Imperator* on a horse from a triumphal arch, and then places another figure, with a crown and palm in front of the rider. There is a double trick here. The rider, called by Mr. Elliott *Imperator*, is no emperor, as the unlearned are led to suppose, but a general, Claudius Drusus. And what is worse, the figure with the crown is taken from a totally different plate in Montfaucon. Mr. Barnes has copied this pictorial composition from Elliott, and follows him with equal credulity in his exposition of the Seals. But in most of the other parts of the book the commentary is judicious and sound, and the practical reflections exhibit piety and good taste.

Dünen und Berg Geschichten. Von Fanny Lewald. 2 vols. Braunschweig: Vieweg. London: Williams and Norgate.

MISS FANNY LEWALD, the authoress of these 'Stories of the Mountains and the Downs,' passed a few weeks with some of her friends on the island

of Heligoland. On another occasion she met the same friends at Bonn on the Rhine. At Heligoland and at Bonn the party, consisting of two ladies, some painters, a Batavian colonel, and a Hamburg merchant, had nothing whatever to do, and, as the proverb goes, very little to get. Hence they were very sociable, and very lazy. They talked a good deal, quarrelled on politics, and agreed never to talk politics again. The resolution was praiseworthy, especially in Germans. But on what subject were they to converse? They proposed to tell stories, and they did it very much to their own satisfaction. Miss Lewald collected them all, and published them off hand. They are tolerable stories in their way, and just such as the kind of people we have described were likely to tell. They would certainly be better without the running commentary with which the fair author has thought proper to accompany them, but it ought also to be said that without these commentaries Miss Lewald would have produced only one volume. As it is, there are two volumes of readable matter for all those who have little time and much patience.

Geschichte des Alterthums. Von M. Duncker. Vol. 1. Berlin: Duncker and Humblot. London: Williams and Norgate.

AMONG the German writers of ancient history there are none so deservedly celebrated and popular as Becker and Schlosser. There is a vast difference in their treatment of the same subjects. Becker collects and records the facts and traditions of the ancient nations; Schlosser attempts arranging and explaining them. Each is excellent in his way. But Becker gives us too much matter and too little philosophy. Schlosser's 'Ancient History' is all philosophy. Becker's work appears tame and trite to the accomplished student; Schlosser, on the other hand, is a sealed book to all beginners. Professor Duncker has steered a middle course between the two. In his 'Ancient History' he does not, like Schlosser, suppose his readers possessed of the historical facts and traditions, but he combines the events and the popular traditions and explanations of events with accounts and comparisons of the morals, customs, and mythologies of the various ancient nations. He introduces his readers to their countries and their monuments, he relates and translates the traditions which have come down to us. His accounts serve to approximate the life of antiquity, and a careful study of his work (so far as it is completed) is likely to produce that familiarity with the fates, the manners, customs, and religions of the ancient nations, which at a less advanced stage of historiography was attainable only by an extensive course of reading, and after many years of intense thought and application. Works of this stamp are invaluable. They condense the labour of many years and men, and place sound information on the past within the reach even of those who are most engrossed with the social and political problems of the day.

SUMMARY.

OF the new issues of the *Waverley Novels*, by Messrs. Black, of Edinburgh, the first volume has appeared of the 'Library Edition,' in octavo form, to range with the 'Standard English Authors.' Of the beauty and cheapness of some of the other reprints of Sir Walter Scott we have already spoken with praise, which is due also with regard to the present edition.

A valuable addition to 'Bohn's Scientific Library' is the *Bridgewater Treatise*, by the Rev. William Kirby, F.R.S., edited, with notes, by Professor T. Rymer Jones, F.R.S. In the 'Classical Library' the volume for the month is a literal translation of the *Heroines*, the *Amores*, and the *Art of Love*, with minor pieces of Ovid, translated by H. T. Riley, B.A., of Clare Hall. Some of the passages, fit only for pagan readers, are either paraphrased, or left untranslated, otherwise the rendering is very literal, and illustrated by frequent notes. The fifth and concluding volume of Vasari's *Lives of the Painters*, translated by Mrs. Foster, appears in the 'Standard Library.' In the 'Illustrated Library'

a reprint of Charlotte Eaton's *Rome in the Nineteenth Century* is a most acceptable addition. For its descriptions of the works of art in Italy, and also of the general antiquities, few books of travel have been more deservedly popular. The work was first published in 1820, and after quickly going through four editions, has remained for about twenty years out of print. No subsequent work has wholly taken its place, and as the matters chiefly described are such as are little affected by political changes, few parts required alteration. The addition of a good index and the plates increase its value as a guide-book.

Under the title of the *Brand of Dominic*, an historical account of the Inquisition is given, by the Rev. W. H. Rule, formerly a chaplain at Gibraltar. The work is very different from some others on the same subject, which chiefly consist of recitals of the horrible details of particular cases; but the history and policy, the principles and practices of the Holy Office, are here described in a methodical and impartial manner. That the Inquisition is a permanent and rigorous institution of the Church of Rome, and in abeyance in some countries only from the force of circumstances, is clearly shown. The work is the result of much research and thorough knowledge of the subject.

A pamphlet on *The Rifle: its Uses and Advantages in War*, by Longrange, dedicated to the Metropolitan Rifle Club, contains many remarks on projectile weapons worthy of attention in connexion with the national defence. The most recent opinions and experiments are referred to.

A new periodical, devoted to a most praiseworthy object, has been begun, called *The Life Boat: or Journal of the National Shipwreck Institution*. The Society under whose auspices it appears have, by the agency of life boats, mortar and rocket lines, and other apparatus, saved many lives, and the diffusion of this journal will make the Institution better known, and obtain for it the means of extended usefulness.

A few poetical pieces, *Ursino of Nararre*, *The Legend of King Solomon*, and *Fables*, are turned with some skill and humour. The Fables are some of them after Pilpay, and others said to be abstracts of those of a French poetess of the 13th century. *A Letter to Mr. Baring, M.P., on the Effects of Californian and Australian Gold Discoveries*, by Frederick Scheer, will be read with interest by commercial men.

In the 'Library for the Times,' a *Life of Constantine the Great*, by Joseph Fletcher, gives a faithful portrait of this remarkable man. By Gibbon and other writers, the history of his life and times is fully given; but hitherto Constantine has not had, in our language, a popular biographer. One of the strangest characters he certainly is in all history—the Pontifex Maximus of Paganism, and the patron of Christianity, the deifier of his father, and the murderer of his son and wife, receiving worship during his life as 'Sol invictus,' and before his death submitting to baptism, raising the Christian Church to external dignity and wealth, and, at the same time, destroying her internal strength and spirituality. Such was Constantine the Great, the story of whose life and wars and policy is here ably told.

LIST OF NEW BOOKS.

- Aguilar's (Grace) Days of Bruce, 12mo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
- Anthony's (L.) Footsteps to History, 8vo, cloth, 4s. 6d.
- Aytoun's Lays, 5th edition, 12mo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
- Brunton's (Mary) Self-Control and Discipline, 12mo, 2s. 6d.
- Bunger's German Travelling Conversations, cloth, 2s. 6d.
- Cheesman's Tables of Customs Duties, post 8vo, cloth, 2s.
- Chalmers' (Dr.) Memoirs, Vol. 4, 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.
- Dill's (E. M.) Mystery Solved, 12mo, cloth, 3s. 6d.
- Dod's (C. R.) Electoral Facts, 18mo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
- Donaldson's Exercises to Latin Grammar, 12mo, 2s. 6d.
- Doubleday on Mundane Moral Government, 8vo, cloth, 8s.
- Haldane's (R.) Memoirs, 8vo, cloth, 12s.
- Hill's (W.) Memory of Language, 12mo, bound, 1s. 6d.
- Importance of Literature to Men of Business, 5s.
- Jane's (R.) Psalter, new edition, 32mo, calf, 3s. 6d.
- Laing's Observations on State of Denmark, 8vo, cloth, 1s.
- Lectures on the Results of the Exhibition, 8vo, 7s. 6d.
- Levi's Commercial Law, Vol. 2, Part 2, 30s.; complete, 42s.
- Lewis's Method of Reasoning in Politics, 2 vols. 8vo, 2s.
- Mac Farlane's (C.) Catacombs of Rome, 12mo, 3s.
- Marsden's History of the Later Puritans, 8vo, cloth, 10s. 6d.

Moseley's Political Elements of Modern Literature, 7s. 6d.
Osborne's Stray Leaves from an Arctic Journal, 8vo, 12s.
Rhymes for Youthful Historians, 12mo, 1s. 6d.; sewed, 1s.
Ryan's (J.) Preparation of Long-Line, &c., 8vo, cloth, 5s.
Smith's Five Years' Residence in Nepaul, 2 vols. 8vo, 21s.
Stewart's Stable Economy, 5th edition, 12mo, cloth, 7s. 6d.
Taylor's Emphatic New Testament, 12mo, cloth, 6s. 6d.
Uncle Tom's Cabin, post 8vo, cloth, 2s. 6d.
Wilson's Narrative of the Burmese War in 1824, 9s.

M. ARAGO.

We mentioned last week the retirement of MM. Villemain and Cousin in consequence of refusing to take the oath to the French President and the Constitution. It was taken for granted that a greater than any of the other recusants, M. Arago, would follow their example, he being peculiarly identified, as a member of the Provisional Government, with the republican party. But when, on Tuesday last, it became known that this great *savant* had been called on for the oath, that he had refused it, and that consequently he was to be expelled from the place in the Observatory which he has occupied for nearly fifty years, and in which he has rendered services to science which have made him famous over the whole civilized world—when this became known, all Paris felt indignation and shame. It was, in fact, not without difficulty that people were brought to believe that the distinguished *savant*, worn with illness and age, and half blind from arduous labours, could be stricken by a Louis Bonaparte—that a paltry despot could presume to extinguish one of the burning and shining lights of the scientific firmament. The outcry raised was so loud and menacing, that it made M. Bonaparte and his advisers quake; and their alarm increased to perfect terror when they learned by a letter from M. Arago himself, that he intended to denounce them to the learned bodies of Europe and America. They accordingly laid their heads together, and came to the conclusion that it was for their interest rightly understood, not to expel the renowned *savant* from the scene of his long and glorious labours. So they determined to exempt him from taking the oath, and yet allow him to retain his place:—and this resolution was notified to the public, with, however, very bad grace, in the official 'Moniteur' of Wednesday. A letter which M. Arago addressed to the Minister of Public Instruction on this painful affair has been published, and on the whole is greatly admired. It is as follows:—

"Paris, May 9.
" Monsieur le Ministre—The Government has itself admitted that the oath prescribed by Art. 14 of the Constitution ought not to be required from the members of a purely scientific and literary body like the Institute. I cannot say why the Bureau des Longitudes, an astronomical academy, in which, when a vacancy occurs, an election ensues to fill it up, is placed in another category. The simple circumstance would perhaps have sufficed to induce me to refuse the oath, but considerations of another nature, I confess, have exercised a decisive influence on my mind. Circumstances rendered me, in 1848, as member of the Provisional Government, one of the founders of the republic. As such, and I glory in it at present, I contributed to the abolition of all political oaths. At a later period, I was named by the Constituent Assembly president of the executive committee; my acts in this last-named situation are too well known to the public for me to have need to mention them here. You can comprehend, Monsieur le Ministre, that in presence of these reminiscences, my conscience has imposed on me a resolution which perhaps the director of the Observatory would have hesitated to come to. I had always thought that by the terms of the law, an astronomer at the Bureau of Longitude was appointed for life, but your decision has undeceived me. I have therefore, Monsieur le Ministre, to request you to appoint a day on which I shall have to quit an establishment which I have been inhabiting now for near half a century. That establishment, thanks to the protection given to it by the governments which have succeeded each other in France for the last forty years; thanks, above all, I may be allowed to say, to the kindness of the Legislative Assemblies in regard to me, has risen from its ruins as a model. It is not without a profound sentiment of grief that I shall separate from so many fine instruments, to the construction of which I have more or less contributed; it is not without lively apprehension that I shall behold the means of research created by me passing into malevolent or even hostile hands; but my conscience has spoken, and I am bound to obey its dictates. I am anxious that in this circumstance everything shall pass in the most open manner; and in consequence I hasten to inform you, Monsieur le Ministre, that I will address to all the great Academies of Europe and America, for I have long had the honour of belonging to them, a circular to intimate my removal from an establishment with which my name had been in some

sort identified, and which was for me a second country. I desire it to be known everywhere that the motives which have dictated my determination have nothing for which my children can ever blush. I owe these explanations, above all, to the first-rate *savans* who honour me with their friendship, such as Humboldt, Faraday, Brewster, Melvino, &c. I am anxious also that these illustrious personages shall not be uneasy concerning the great change which this determination of mine will produce in my existence. My health has without doubt been much impaired in the service of my country. A man cannot have passed a part of his life, going from mountain-peak to mountain-peak, in the wildest districts of Spain, for the purpose of determining the precise figure of the earth; in the inhospitable regions of Africa, comprised between Bougia and the capital of the Regency; in Algerian corsairs; in the prisons of Majorca, of Rosas, and of Palamos, without profound traces being left behind. But I may remind my friends, that a hand without vigour can still hold a pen, and that the half-blind old man will always find near him persons anxious to note down his words. Receive, Monsieur le Ministre, the assurance of my respect,

FR. ARAGO."

THE BOOK TRADE.

THE evening of Thursday was signalled by the delivery of two statements, made independently by two important personages in different places at the same moment, which, in our opinion, go far to account for that peculiar condition of the book-trade,—characterised by one of the speakers as a disgrace to the present state of civilization! While Mr. Gladstone was giving utterance in the House of Commons to the truism that the prices of books are high in consequence of the limited number of buyers, the American minister was demonstrating in Freemasons' Hall, that the prices of books would not be so high if the two English-reading countries were mutually to recognise an international law of copyright. Mr. Gladstone further remarked that the high prices of books are the result of a monopoly, leading to the system of lending that prevails throughout the country. Now it is notorious that three-volume novels, in which the least monopoly exists, are the dearest of all books, simply because they are the amusement of idlers, and have always a market among clubs, coffee-houses, and circulating libraries. High prices are *chiefly* the result of limited circulation. And why is this? In consequence of the vastly increasing number of new books, there are fewer buyers *per book*. The chief increase is in inferior books. These share in sale with good books, and the greater the competition in bookmaking and bookselling, the more the evil will increase. If Mr. A. takes an excursion into foreign parts, he is tempted by the facilities of publication to print his journal, notwithstanding that other and better writers have done the same before him. As a proof of the injuriousness of this state of things to the true interests of literature, we refer to our review in this day's paper (p. 414) of Mr. Neale's 'Residence in Siam.' It may be argued that such examples of bookmaking find their level and desert—by failure. We are not sure of that. Among the trade who are not cognizant of the true value of a book at the time of its publication, there must always be a certain number of purchasers, whether it be good or bad; and a bad book once published stands in the way of a good one.

The great evil, says Mr. Gladstone, is, that the retailer is restricted not to give more than ten out of his twenty-five per cent. to the customer for discount. Can any form of reasoning be more illogical? The great evil is, that he should have so large an allowance from the publisher as to be able to give any discount at all. Here is one important cause of high prices. The publisher rates and advertises his book ten to fifteen per cent. dearer than the retailer desires to sell it. If it can be proved that ten to fifteen per cent. is sufficient profit for the retailer, let his allowance be reckoned at that.

The question of the opening of the trade is altogether another matter. Our impression is that prices of books will remain the same, until their circulation can be increased by the recognition of an international law of copyright with those countries that read and write and speak the same language.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

THE following letter, written privately to ourselves, from one of the officers of the Arctic Expedition, and received yesterday morning *rid* Holyhead, brings the latest intelligence of the squadron, on their way to the North:—

H.M.S. *Assistance*, at Sea.

May 4, 1852.

On the 21st April, at 3 p.m., the *Assistance*, *Resolute*, *North Star*, *Intrepid*, and *Pioneer*, accompanied by the reserve steamers, *Basilisk* and *Desperate*, with the tugs *Monkey*, *African*, and *Lightning*, quitted the Nore under a particular cheer to each vessel from the *Myrtle*, bearing the pendant of Commodore Hope, commanding at the Nore, and having on board the ladies of the Admiral's family (the Hon. Josceline Percy). This squadron soon threaded the narrow channels, and were to have anchored near the Sunk Light, off Harwich, but, owing to some mishap to the engines of *Intrepid*, brought up some five or six miles to the westward. During the night *Intrepid* made good defects, and at daylight the squadron were again in motion. *Monkey*, having parted with coal, returned to the river, and the same evening, the wind being fair and services of *Lightning* not being required, she also returned to Woolwich.

On the morning of Sunday the 25th, all the vessels were off Pentland Firth; *Basilisk* taking *Assistance* (senior) in tow, carried her up to Stromness before noon. The remainder of the squadron were all at anchor before night. The vessels remained restowing and putting things to rights at Stromness, whilst the steamers completed coal from a brig within the harbour, astonishing the good people of Stromness with such an imposing force, and they on their part making the most of such a godsend. On the 28th the squadron took leave of *terra firma* and put to sea, aided by the steamers *Basilisk* and *Desperate*. The following morning were close off Cape Wrath, North-West Head of Sutherland. The steamers, having well performed their duty, and but coal sufficient to carry them home, are now quitting us, with farewell letters to wives, sweethearts, &c., the last communication perhaps, unless we chance to fall in with whalers. As to our destination, no one thinks of inquiring; all are animated with much the same spirit. "Follow my leader" will be the principal game we shall have to play for the next five months, and if success does not attend our efforts (as to our missing countrymen), I do not think much blame will fall upon any one of our expedition. There is a moral force, an unanimity and confidence among us, which betokens anything but "a rope of sand." I dare say you on shore are pitying us poor fellows afloat; mind your own business, my good friend, we shall as fervently pray for the poor fellows who travel by land, and yourself among the number; and as we have less temptation to sin, and are more likely to be more earnest when we do pray, all the happiness that can befall you will be prayed for by yours, most sincerely,

E. B.

THE SILURIAN SYSTEM.

Norwich, May 8.

SIR,—My copy of the 'Literary Gazette' for April 24, having been addressed to me at Norwich, did not reach me until my arrival here the early part of this week; and now (after having been several days indisposed and quite incapable of writing) I send my final answer to the last Silurian comments of my friend Sir R. I. Murchison. My replies shall be as specific and as short as I can make them; and I am writing from memory, without a single geological work before me, or a single note of reference.

1. "It is beside the question (he tells me, 'Literary Gazette,' p. 369) to revert to what we respectively did in the field in 1831 and 1832." It is not beside the question to have done this. The comparison of our work (at the British Association in 1833) led us, by agreement, to a joint examination of the typical Silurian country in 1834. My friend had most perfect fair play. I did not contest his base line at a single point. On a Silurian question I believed him infallible: and I accepted

his interpretation of the sections, not only in South Wales, but also in my own country on the east side of the Berwyns; where he pronounced the Meifod beds to be his *most typical form of Caradoc sandstone*, then called Shelly Sandstone. It was not I that cut away the Cambrian rocks from the Silurian. It was he that cut off the so-called Silurian rocks from the general system of North and South Wales, and declared them to form a *distinct and superior system*; and as such he described them in his sections, and afterwards coloured them in his map. On no other hypothesis could he give any real meaning to his nomenclature.

2. In the next paragraph he adds that all the rocks I called Cambrian, and which lay to the west of the Silurian region, were *affirmed by myself* to be inferior to the strata of his own system. I reply that I cannot consent to have the load of my friend's mistakes thrown upon my shoulders. If there be a single true Silurian rock on the west side of his base line he has only himself to blame for the fact; the mistake is his, and not mine. But taking the Caradoc sandstone as the physical base of the Silurian system, we may still affirm that all the rocks to the west of the true Silurian base are *inferior to the whole Silurian system*. I contend that the Llandeilo flag (which is but one single stage in the great Bala or Upper Cambrian group) is a Cambrian, and not a Silurian rock. I determined the place of its equivalent (the Bala limestone) correctly in my sections. My friend utterly mistook the true relations of his Llandeilo flag. Of this I had, as I thought, good evidence in 1846, when I revisited the Silurian country; and taking the new evidence given by the admirable details of the government map, we may see, at a glance, the extent of the mistakes made by him in the interpretation of his Lower Silurian groups. 1. The want of conformity of the upper to the lower groups is not brought out in the Silurian map, and this led to a mistaken interpretation of the next inferior group. 2. The upper part of the Llandeilo group is mistaken for the Caradoc sandstone. 3. The Llandeilo flagstone is made the base of the system, and is put in every section *above the undulatory rocks on its western side*. There is not one single section in South Wales where my friend has determined the true relations of the Llandeilo flag to the beds above it and below it, so as to define its place in a general section of Wales, whether real or ideal. I offer no criticism "*on two or three mistakes*"; I affirm that the whole conception of the relations of the Llandeilo flag to my Upper Cambrian group was erroneous; and that all the lower parts of my friend's general and ideal sections—the very foundations of his Silurian nomenclature—were wrong in principle.

3. In the same paragraph my friend adds, "that the inferiority of position (viz. of the Upper Cambrian or Upper Bala group, to the Llandeilo flag) has proved to be a fundamental misconception." True; but with whom rests the blame of this fundamental misconception? Any man of common sense, reading this paragraph, must conclude that the mistake was mine. But what is the fact? I made no mistake whatsoever when I affirmed that what I formerly called my Upper Cambrian system overlaid the Bala limestone. That the same groups of Upper Cambrian strata underlaid the Llandeilo flag, was the 'fundamental misconception' of my friend, and he must bear the blame of it. The mistake I made was the adoption, during fourteen years, of this fundamental error on the sole authority of my friend.

4. At the end of the same paragraph he adds as follows: "In the hands of the government geological surveyors, the Cambria of Sedgwick, which was undefined and unknown through any publication of its fossils, has proved to be identical in age with the original published Siluria of Murchison." Any plain unsophisticated reader must conclude, I think, from such words as these, that in the interpretation of the Cambrian sections, I had made some great radical mistake, and that the sections of my opponent were immaculate. Now, the very reverse of this is the case. The government surveyors have discovered no great fundamental mis-

take in my Welsh sections, while they have completely upset the scheme on which the two Lower Silurian stages were constructed by my friend. To say that the great Cambrian groups are "*identical in age* with the original published Silurian rocks of Murchison," is so extravagantly inaccurate, that it is no easy matter to describe its inaccuracy in respectful language. My friend might just as well affirm, that all the vast series of rocks west of the Berwyns, are *identical in age* with the Bala limestone! But we may ask, how have the government surveyors brought the Llandeilo flag of the Silurian system into comparison with the great groups of Cambria? By a process of development, both upwards and downwards—by adding three or four thousand feet of strata (which had been completely misinterpreted by my friend and antagonist) *above* the Llandeilo flag, so as to connect it with the Caradoc sandstone; and then by adding, in a descending section, at least 25,000 feet to its base. The Llandeilo flag, thus developed and tricked out, becomes the equivalent of my Cambrian system! But under no interpretation, compatible with the plain meaning of words, can it be called "*the original published Siluria of Murchison*."

5. I re-affirm, with great confidence, that my friend has utterly shifted his original ground of classification. In his reply to my remarks on this head, he has kept out of sight the important fact, that in 1834 (the last time we were together in North Wales) he accepted my interpretation of the Bala limestone; and, spite of its fossils, declared his conviction that, by the evidence of the sections, it was unequivocally a member of the Cambrian series, and removed out of his Silurian system. If he afterwards saw reason to change his views as to this essential point, he was, I think, called upon to communicate that change to myself; but no such communication was ever made to me. Again, it is by no means correct to say that the Cambrian rocks were undefined, and their fossils unknown. The rocks were *well defined* by true sections. No good general list of their fossils had been published by myself; but I stated, again and again, *before* the publication of the Silurian system, that many of the Cambrian fossils were of identical species with the Lower Silurian; that in the Bala group several fossils (enumerated by their specific names), and nine species of Orthis, were identical with known Lower Silurian species, &c. &c. Lastly, my friend himself, though he called the Bala limestone Cambrian, did not discover in it a single species that was not also found in the Llandeilo group. When he afterwards, discarding the evidence of sections, began to feel his way downwards, and, by help of *fossils only*, endeavoured to bring the great Cambrian groups within the narrow limits of his two Lower Silurian stages, I have a right to affirm that he shifted his ground, and deserted the original principles of his classification.

6. Speaking of himself and Count Keyserling, he informs us—"that in 1842 they satisfied themselves that, after many apparent flexures, strata containing the same fossils appeared on the flanks and summit of Snowdon, as those they had left on the east flank of the Berwyns,—a country which had been specially mapped and described as Silurian." As to the country east of the Berwyns, a part of it was erroneously mapped by my friend, and another part of it was erroneously coloured by myself, in conformity with his misinterpretation of the deposits, which he made Caradoc sandstone. To have been consistent, therefore, he and Count Keyserling must have regarded the top of Snowdon as Caradoc sandstone, a conclusion which would have been uncontestedly erroneous. As to the Snowdonian fossils, I had published a pretty good list of them at least twelve months before the summer of 1842, and a short list had been previously given by Professor Phillips. They were all of them species of the Bala group; but, unquestionably, that did not prove them fossils of any true Silurian stage.

7. As to evidence derived from foreign regions, I by no means protest against the reasonable use of it: but I do protest against its use in determining

the proper fundamental nomenclature of British rocks. Questions of this kind must be decided on British evidence; neither can I now (from utter want of documents) discuss what my friend calls his *induction*, made in 1843. At that time I did believe that my friend's lower Silurian groups would be found to descend as far as the Bala limestone—that the Bala limestone was Caradoc—and that a considerable part of the undulating groups of South Wales would turn out Upper Silurian. How I came, in 1843, to entertain, hypothetically, these erroneous views, and how I got rid of them, are questions I have discussed in a paper which before this time is probably published in the 'Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society.'

8. Lastly, I request the reader to bear in mind that my whole position is not aggressive, but defensive. I continue to use the nomenclature mutually agreed upon about sixteen or seventeen years since. The rocks found in Wales, and not in Siluria, I still call Cambrian. All the rocks in Siluria are still called Silurian. My scheme involves no geographical incongruity, deprives my friend not of one single rock he is entitled to name on British evidence, and it has the incontestable right of priority. It does exclude the Llandeilo flag from the rocks of Siluria. But this very Llandeilo flag (the Bala limestone) was in 1834 placed by my friend among the Upper Cambrian groups, and in a region where the sections were unambiguous and rightly interpreted; while the typical Llandeilo flag of South Wales was utterly misinterpreted by himself as to its geological relations. All this is clear to demonstration; and the conclusions that follow from it are inevitable, and settle at once all grounds of difference between my friend and myself. No man living can have a right to change his nomenclature by fashioning it to sections which are wrong, while he discards sections which are right.

In all his argument he seems to think especially of the importance of perpetuating his own premature nomenclature of foreign rocks; and this view warps his whole argument. His premature nomenclature is to be vindicated at whatever cost, and without any reference to the published sections of a fellow-labourer, who had honestly worked through the vast and most difficult series of true Cambrian rocks, and knew their relations; while he had himself barely touched the same series on its outskirts—had only pretended to describe two of its highest stages; and, as to the lower of these two stages, had irredeemably blundered. Hence he has been compelled to adopt a monstrous scheme of development, leading to the monstrous conclusion that his single stage—the Llandeilo flag—is, by this new scheme of development, identical in age with beds at least 25,000 feet in thickness, which undulate between the Berwyns and the Menai! And a monstrous development is to be followed by a new and monstrous nomenclature, in which a great fundamental group which does not exist in Wales is to be called Cambrian, while the grand series of the older Cambrian rocks are to be called Silurian, though they form the mountains of Wales, and do not exist at all in the typical Silurian region. No authority, however great, can perpetuate such an incongruous and unwarranted a nomenclature; and it is historically as unjust as geographically it is incongruous.

From the very first, the term *Silurian System* was used prematurely by its author, and against repeated remonstrances on my own part. For the system had no clear physical or zoological base. Many of the fossils found below it in the Cambrian rocks, I affirmed to be of the same species with those in the two lower so-called Silurian groups. Advancing knowledge strengthened these objections, and it was at length discovered that the whole system, according to the author's scheme, rested physically on a false base. But there is still a good Silurian system, agreeably to my friend's use of the word *System*, based on the Caradoc sandstone. This sandstone is a great mechanical and often an unconformable deposit, constituting the true connecting links between Cambria and Siluria. It partakes of the zoological character of

both regions. At May Hill its fossils seem to be those of the Wenlock stage. At Horderley they very nearly approach to those of the Bala stage. Is there any single Caradoc section where these two fossil groups appear together? If so, are the types blended or superimposed? Some questions of this kind require a careful re-examination; though they have already been excellently handled by Professor Phillips. If questions such as these were completely solved, we should, I think, need nothing more for a full history of the true sequence and natural progressive development of the oldest fossil-bearing rocks of Britain, beginning with the Cambrian and ending with the Silurian series.

To the concluding words of my friend's comment ('Literary Gazette,' April 24, p. 370), I express my heartfelt concurrence. When we went round the Highlands of Scotland in 1827, I was then his superior in physical endurance; but a quarter of a century has, alas! made me but a sorry labourer in the field. Still I am not without hopes of again meeting him in his true Silurian country, and endeavouring to settle, along with him, one or two minute, and not laborious, questions of demarcation to which I have just pointed.

ADAM SEDGWICK.

TOPICS OF THE WEEK.

OUR scientific readers will be glad to learn that we have at last a Chancellor of the Exchequer touched with the calamities of the Learned Societies:—

"The House must remember," said Mr. D'Israeli, on Monday last, in his place in Parliament, "when we talk of the learned societies of the nineteenth century, that learned societies no longer consist of learned men. The necessity of raising a revenue by public subscription permits a large number of individuals to become members of learned societies without any claim to the distinction beyond that of their wealth and general respectability of character."

This is but too true—true even of the Societies economically and comfortably located in Somerset House, though in the Royal Society the abuse ceased upon the introduction of the present mode of election in 1847. Before this period more than half the Society was made up of men with no other qualification than that of rank and influence. The purging of such a condition of things is the work of a generation. Until these die out and become extinct the reform will not be complete. Our complaint now is, that the council have gone to the other extreme, by limiting the number of births to less than the average number of deaths. Men are now excluded year after year, whose qualifications, if not brilliant, are equal to the acknowledged standard of merit—if there be any meaning in the signatures of some of the staunchest reformers attached to their certificates. It seems hard to keep these as suppliants at the gate, while so many, illustrious as patrons and nothing more, clad in official purple and fine linen, are within. The remarks of the Chancellor of the Exchequer are chiefly applicable to those Societies which, like the Linnean, full of years and respectability, have to surrender nearly the whole of their subscriptions to provide themselves with meeting-rooms. It is true that no member is elected without going through the solemnities prescribed by the charter, but who dare, for solvency sake, put a dissentient cork into the ballot-box! Until the Government provide apartments, and some little endowment, for our learned Societies, there will be no choice for many of them but beggary, and no honour that is not indiscriminate, and therefore spurious.

The anniversary of the Royal Literary Fund was held on Thursday, with Lord Chief Justice Campbell in the chair, under more than usually favourable circumstances, the income of the corporation having been larger during the past year than at any former period. Fifty-one grants had been awarded, amounting to 1635*l.*;—600*l.* more than in the preceding year. For a portion of this increase the fund was indebted to a legacy of 180*l.*, bequeathed by the late Mr. König of the British Museum. Towards the present year's income 770*l.* was collected in the room, including the munificent donations of 100 guineas from Her Majesty, and 50

guineas from the noble and learned chairman. Among the company assembled on this occasion were the representatives of five foreign powers,—Prussia, Belgium, Denmark, America, and Persia, and several eminent literary men. The speakers included the Rev. Professor Browne, Lieutenant General Sir Charles Pasley, Mr. Justice Talfourd, Mr. Monckton Milnes, Professor Creasy, Sir Alexander Cockburn, Mr. Whiteside, Dr. Roget, Mr. Lawrence, and Chevalier Bunsen. The attendance was numerous, almost to overflowing, and we believe the fund is indebted for this and much of its prosperity to the active habits, courtesy, and business-like precision of its secretary, Mr. Octavian Blewitt.

The anniversary of the Artists' Benevolent Fund was held in the same room on Saturday, under the presidency of Sir Charles Eastlake; we regretted, however, to notice that few of the principal artists were present. The report showed that 842*l.* had been distributed during the past year among eighty-two widows and orphans, and the funded property of the corporation had been increased by the munificent legacy of 1000*l.* from the late Jeremiah Olive, Esq., of York-terrace, Regent's-park. The Artists' Benevolent Fund has many staunch benefactors; but it must be confessed with shame that several of those who have risen to eminence in their profession, and some to opulence, participating in the honours of the Academy, are wanting among its supporters.

The Trustees of the British Museum have brought before the government the defective accommodation both for books and readers. Sir Robert Inglis, in referring to the matter in parliament, said that the present space would be altogether insufficient in two or three years. He also suggested the propriety of the central area being roofed over with glass, a proposal the more important since the resolution to abandon the Crystal Palace as a receptacle for national property.

The royal council of Madrid has, we learn, after some deliberation, just sanctioned the basis of a treaty between Spain and France for the protection of literary property. The central government of Switzerland is also, in compliance with the wish of France, collecting information from the different cantons, preparatory to concluding a similar treaty with that country. Between France and Belgium a like convention will also shortly be signed, Belgium having at last been compelled to consent to the suppression of the detestable piracy system. She demands in return to have the privilege of printing French books for circulation in France, on payment of a small duty. This is reasonable, and will probably be accorded, though French printers oppose it on the ground that the Belgians can print cheaper.

A copyright case of some interest was decided last week before the Court of Common Pleas, *Novello v. Ludlow*. The plaintiff, as publisher and proprietor of 'Benedict's Part Songs,' alleged an infringement of copyright on the part of the defendant, who had distributed gratuitously 250 lithographic impressions of one of the monthly parts of the work to holders of tickets for the Liverpool Philharmonic Society's concerts. By the Copyright Act (5 and 6 Vict., c. 14, sec. 15) a special action in such a case is provided for, and the interpretation clause defines 'book' to mean also 'music,' and 'copyright' to mean 'the sole and exclusive liberty of printing, or otherwise multiplying, copies of any subject to which the said word is in this act applied.' Mr. Willes, for the defence, pleaded ingeniously that there could be no property in vocal notes analogous to that in mental thoughts, and that he had as much right to listen to, and imitate, and perpetuate, the notes of a singer as of a nightingale. The copies had been printed, not for sale, but for distribution, which only argued enthusiastic admiration of the composition. Judgment was, of course, given for the plaintiff.

The Academy of Sciences at Paris is about to fill up the vacancy in the number of its corresponding members of the section of Mechanics caused by the death of the distinguished Brunel. A committee,

charged to examine the claims of qualified persons, has just resolved to recommend Mr. Fairbairn, of Manchester; after him, Mr. E. Hodgkinson, of London, and Mr. Willis, of Cambridge; and after them, Herr Weisbach, of Friburg, in Saxony. Mr. Fairbairn will, no doubt, be elected. It is very rare to see natives of the same country obtain four out of five recommendations from the same committee.

The library of the convent at Gaesdorf, in Germany, is in possession of a most interesting MS. of Rempen's 'De Successione Christi.' It contains the whole of the four books, and its completion dates from the year 1427. This MS. is therefore the oldest one extant of this work, for the copy in the library of the Jesuits at Antwerp, which has generally been mistaken for the oldest MS., is of the year 1440. The publication of this circumstance also settles the question as to the age of the fourth book of Rempen's work, which some erroneously assumed had not been written previous to 1440.

H.M.S. *Herald*, Captain Henry Mangles Denham, was inspected last week by Commodore Henry Eden, previous to her departure on the exploring expedition to the Pacific. Among the many visitors during the week were Sir William and Dr. Joseph Hooker, who have supplied from Kew part of the stock of seeds and plants to be carried to the antipodes. On Saturday a gentleman brought on board a copy of the original folio edition of 'Captain Cook's Voyages,' in which a memorandum was written, to the effect that the book is the property of Mr. James Coombes, who entrusts it to the care of Captain Denham during his surveying voyage to those countries, of the first discovery of which it contains the description, to be returned to the owner on the arrival of Captain Denham in England. The work is illustrated with numerous maps and plates, and is now very rare. The *Torch*, steam tender, accompanies the *Herald* in the expedition.

The Captain of the *Renovation*, the brig which was reported to have seen the two vessels on the iceberg, suspected to be Sir John Franklin's ships, has been examined on his arrival at Venice, but his replies add nothing to the information already derived from the mate, Mr. Simpson, and other witnesses. No entry was made in the log-book. None of those on board had heard of any reward being offered for intelligence of the missing expedition. The opinion on board at the time was that they were wrecked Greenlandmen, abandoned by the crews.

Crystal Palaces are decidedly making the 'grand tour' of Europe. A little while ago we had to announce that one is about to be erected at Paris; and we have now to state that Copenhagen is about to have one also. The latter is to be a permanent building, and is to be destined for the exhibition of the fine arts and manufactures of the three Scandinavian kingdoms. It is to be raised by the contributions of Swedish, Norwegian, and Danish capitalists. As for our own Crystal Palace, we hear with regret that it is to be pitched at Sydenham, instead of on the banks of the Thames. We trust that the Chairman and Directors of the Brighton Railway, who are said to have purchased it, will not burn their fingers.

The discussion on what are called 'The Taxes on Knowledge,' came off, in the House of Commons, on Wednesday evening, and separate votes being taken on the three subjects of—1. paper duty; 2. the stamp duty; and 3. the advertisement duty, the motions for their abolition were negatived as follows: first, 195 to 107; second, 199 to 100; third, 181 to 116—being majorities of 88, 99, and 56.

The first visitation of the Queen's College, Cork, was held this week in the Examination Hall. Archbishop Whately presided. The Roman Catholic Bishop Slattery was invited as one of the visitors, but, being of the ultramontane and Thurles party, refused to be present. The number of students at present in college is 147; and Sir Robert Kane reported the state of the institution as highly satisfactory.

A new Latin-English Dictionary is announced as preparing for immediate publication by Dr. William

Smith. We have in this country no modern Latin dictionary sufficiently copious and accurate to satisfy scholars and the higher classes of students. Such a work Dr. Smith, from his own classical learning, and his knowledge of the works of previous lexicographers, English and German, is well qualified to produce.

A curious and interesting reprint is announced in Paris, the 'Réflexions sur la Miséricorde de Dieu,' of Mde. de la Vaillière, with manuscript corrections by Bossuet. The original, with Bossuet's notes, is a copy of the fifth edition of the work, 1688, at the library of the Louvre. It is edited by M. Damas-Hinard, one of the conservators of the library.

The Nottingham Arboretum, a part of the Trent meadow-land lately enclosed and planted, was opened by a public ceremony on Tuesday. An address was delivered by the Mayor, and the walks were crowded during the rest of the day, several bands of music being in attendance. The Arboretum is about eighteen acres in extent.

The foundation stone of the new buildings in Victoria-street, for the Westminster Training Institution of the National Society, was laid on Tuesday by H.R.H. Prince Albert.

Dr. Maclure, formerly Head Master of the All Souls and St. Marylebone District School, in union with King's College, London, has been appointed by the crown Regius Professor of Humanity in Marischal College, Aberdeen.

The Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute will be held this year at Newcastle-on-Tyne, commencing on Tuesday, August 24th.

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

ANTIQUARIES. — April 29th. — The Viscount Mahon, President, in the chair. Dr. Nicholson presented a drawing from a fresco painting lately discovered in the Chapel of the Virgin, in St. Albans Abbey Church, representing a bishop, with the legend "SANCTVS WILLIELMVS." It is supposed by the Doctor to be the figure of Saint William, Archbishop of York, from 1140 to 1154, and canonized by Pope Honorius in 1226. Mr. Adey Repton communicated a very beautiful and elaborate drawing of Chichester Cathedral, taken by himself about fifty years since. It was accompanied by remarks on the different periods of the architecture observable in this interesting edifice. Mr. Shaw exhibited a number of very fine drawings of the tile pavement discovered some years since in clearing out the foundations of Jervaulx Abbey. The patterns are rich and unique. The principal reading of the evening consisted of the minutes of the anniversary meeting of the 23rd April, including the President's address.

May 6th. — Mr. Payne Collier, V.P., in the chair. Mr. Philip De la Motte, designer and engraver, was elected a Fellow. Among the numerous books announced as presents to the Society was a copy, from Mr. Tyrrel the City Remembrancer, of a very curious chronicle of London, edited by the late Sir H. Nicolas, of which a very limited number had been printed. Mr. Collier announced his intention to present to the Society a printed proclamation which he had no doubt is one of the very earliest broadsides extant. It related to the marriage of Henry VII., and is from the press of Caxton. It would be in his opinion an appropriate addition to the already valuable collection of broadsides in the library of the Society. Colonel Sykes exhibited a piece of sculpture in alabaster, said to have been taken from Saint Radegund's Abbey near Dover, but certainly, by its style, not older than the cinque-cento period. Mr. Akerman exhibited some gold ornaments of most beautiful workmanship, entrusted to his care by Mr. M. Borrell, by whose brother, the late Mr. H. Borrell of Smyrna, they had been obtained in Greece. They appeared not to belong to the same period, two being of very archaic fabric in the form of medalets, one representing Diana Ephesia in her usual character, the other the goddess with her triform characteristics. One of these objects was a neck chain of most beautiful design, another

was evidently a fragment of a buckle, with a gold stater of Alexander the Great set in the centre. Mr. Akerman promised some remarks on these relics at a future meeting. Mr. Baring Gould communicated a drawing of a remarkable engraved slab, which had evidently formed a part of a cromlech he had noticed near the Basses Pyrenees. The objects represented upon it were analogous to those found on a stone taken from a cromlech, by Mr. John Tissiman, near Scarborough, of which an account had been brought before the Society by Mr. Akerman in the last session. Engraved stones of a somewhat similar character had been noticed by Mr. Lukis as existing in the Celtic remains of the Channel Islands. Dr. Mantell exhibited a very fine example of a glass cinerary urn, which had been found in a tomb at Puteoli. When first discovered, it contained bones and ashes, and two coins of the Emperor Titus. Near it was the shell of a tortoise. The vase was remarkable for a funnel of glass inserted in the mouth and firmly luted, a supposed contrivance, not hitherto observed in glass urns, for pouring libations upon the remains. Mr. Akerman, in a note to Mr. Bruce, the treasurer, communicated a transcript of a letter from Colonel Fairfax to Captain Adam Baynes, and dated in May, 1650. The original was one of the many papers entrusted to Mr. Akerman's examination by the Rev. Adam Baynes, a descendant of the individual to whom it was addressed. It contains a pressing request for the speedy preparation of a set of colours for the Fairfax regiments then about to be formed for the Scotch campaign, and is remarkable for its showing that in those days every company was furnished with colours—a fact which Mr. Akerman observed should be taken into consideration when we read in the annals of the time of the result of battles and skirmishes, and the number of standards captured by the victors. The conclusion of a lengthy memoir of Naworth Castle and the Lords of Gillesland was then read.

ENTOMOLOGICAL. — May 3rd. — J. O. Westwood, Esq., President, in the chair. Edward Sheppard, Esq., was elected a Member of the Society. The President announced that the Society had determined to offer a prize of 5*l.* for the best essay on the duration of life in the males, queen, and workers of the honey-bee respectively, the discovery of these points being of great economic value. Each essay to be addressed to the President and Council of the Entomological Society, in an envelope marked "Essay," and to be delivered before the 31st of December; the name and address of the author to be forwarded separately. Among the donations was a collection of insects of Ceylon, sent by G. H. Thwaites, Esq., M.E.S., now residing in that country, containing many unique specimens of rare species. Mr. Edwin Shepherd exhibited a fine male of *Notodontidae Carmelita*, one of the rarest British *Lepidoptera*, taken by Mr. Hill on the 2nd inst. at West Wickham Wood. Mr. White exhibited drawings of two curious nests of spiders, one sent from Albania by S. S. Saunders, Esq., the other from Pernambuco by M. Weilenmann. Mr. White also exhibited some more of the insects collected by Dr. Hooker in the Himalayas, pointing out several of rarity and interest. Mr. White then exhibited, on the part of Dr. Sutherland, specimens of a minute *Podura*, found in great numbers in June last on the land of Wellington Channel, some miles from the sea, under a species of *Nostoc* growing on the ice; it was closely allied to *Desoria glacialis*, found by Agassiz on glaciers in the Swiss Alps. Dr. Sutherland added that he thought he had found three species of *Podura*, the one referred to, and two others, under stones. Mr. A. F. Sheppard exhibited specimens of *Halias clorana*, bred from larvae found on osiers at Fulham; also a *Cerura rinula*, variety *Bombyx minax*, Hub. Mr. S. Stevens exhibited *Goliathus Polypheus*, in fine condition, from Cape Palmas, and *Callitheca Sapphira*, male and female, captured by Mr. Bates on the river Amazon. The Secretary read, from Mr. Fortune's "Journey to the Tea Countries of China," an account of the means employed by the Chinese to keep away mosquitoes

from boats and houses, as quoted in the "Literary Gazette," page 364. Mr. Fortune answered some inquiries of the President respecting this highly important information he had been the means of making known. Mr. Douglas read a translation, from the April number of the "Stettin Entomologische Zeitung," of a note on *Lithoria depressa* and *L. helveola*, to the effect that they were but sexes of one species. The President read a communication from Alfred Ainger, Esq., stating that he had found the most effectual method of destroying cockroaches in his kitchen was to cut a circular hole in the hearth, into which a basin containing a little water or beer was fitted, and at night these pests fell in and were destroyed by hundreds; in the day time an iron plate covered the aperture. The following memoirs were read:—"Descriptions of five new species of Butterflies from the Rivers Amazon and Silhet," by W. C. Hewitson, Esq.; "Descriptions of the Coleoptera collected in China by Mr. Fortune," by W. W. Saunders, Esq.; "Descriptions of some of the Hymenoptera from the same source," by F. Smith, Esq., and a "Description of a new Hemipterous insect, *Dinidor gibbosus*," by W. S. Dallas, Esq.

MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Monday.** — Royal Institution, 4 p.m.—(J. Conolly, M.D., on Insanity.)
— Statistical, 8 p.m.
— British Architects, 8 p.m.
— Chemical, 8 p.m.
- Tuesday.** — Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(E. Lankester, M.D., on the Physiology of Plants.)
— Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.
— Pathological, 8 p.m.
— Pharmaceutical, 8½ p.m.—(Anniversary.)
- Wednesday.** — Royal Institution, 4 p.m.—(J. Conolly, M.D., on Insanity.)
— Society of Arts, 8 p.m.
— Geological, 8½ p.m.—(1. J. Trimmer, Esq., F.G.S., on the Soils covering the Chalk of Kent; 2. Sir C. Lyell, F.G.S., on the Tertiaries of Belgium and their British Equivalents; Part 2. The Lower Tertiaries.)
— Literary Fund, 3 p.m.
- Thursday.** — Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(R. Westmacott, Esq., R.A., on the History and Practice of Sculpture.)
— Antiquaries, 8 p.m.
- Friday.** — Royal Institution, 8½ p.m.—(B. C. Brodie, Esq., on the Allotropic Changes in Certain Elements.)
— Philological, 8 p.m.—(Anniversary.)
- Saturday.** — Royal Institution, 3 p.m.—(Professor Faraday, on Points connected with the Non-Metallic Elements.)
— Medical, 8 p.m.
— Royal Botanic, 4 p.m.

FINE ARTS.

ROYAL ACADEMY.

THE Venetian school of colouring still numbers its adherents and cultivators amongst the exhibitors, and that to a somewhat increasing extent. Mr. Hook presents us with two pictures in this style, executed in his peculiar manner, and in this respect showing no variation on his former works. *Othello's Description of Desdemona* (210) is the more free and unembarrassed composition, though this subject, as well as that from *Boccaccio* (380), display evidences of laboured and artificial arrangement which have a painful effect. The group of children is perhaps the most successful portion of the latter, but the drawing of the hands is not always true, the hair is sometimes thin and wiry, and a general feeling of restraint detracts from the pleasing results of delicacy and careful study.

Of Mr. F. R. Pickersgill's pictures, no single one is an instance of that clear and vivid painting which has on former occasions appeared from his hand. *The Adoration of the Kings* (365) is better in arrangement than in execution; and indeed though originally treated and highly coloured, the picture is deficient in point of interest. *Pan and Syrinx* (221) is a bold and excellent drawing, very happily treated. Less so is the subject (367) which is suggestive of Etty, but wants his gaiety and brightness, the force of his colour, and the gloss of his surface. The drawing is everywhere good, though the arrangement be not always pleasing; while the colours are certainly too heavy.

Mr. Jones's *Battle of Meeanee* (13) is a scene which chiefly recommends itself as a faithful historical rendering of that important action, founded, as we are told, on documents supplied by General Sir C. Napier. This circumstance should be a guarantee for the truthfulness of the military positions, or we should be disposed to wonder at the dangerous proximity of the General's staff to the enemy's line. It is also to be noticed, that this, like other modern battle pieces, is far more intelligible in its arrangements than the older scenes of a like kind; and a force is gained by increased distinctness, which was formerly sought in indiscriminate tumult and confused fighting. Our knowledge is improved at the sacrifice of some pictorial effect, and without much attempt to excite strong emotion.

The varied excellences, and sometimes inequalities of Mr. T. Webster, are this year exemplified in four different subjects. A *Letter from the Colonies* (153) is that one which most equally, in all parts, represents his skill and manner of treatment. It speaks for itself, and is conspicuous for uniting a happy expression of feeling to the domestic scene. In the *School Playground* (60) more evidences of composition and invention are given. The groups of boys are arranged with an ease that looks like nature, and their varied expressions speak for themselves. The attempt to represent a cloud of dust round the foot-ball players has only been partially successful, and gives an effect of weakness to the distance, which might have been lessened by more gaiety of colour close at hand. In the picture *A. B. C.* (95) a want of richness is perceptible, and the recurrence of large spaces of dead wall, so difficult to deal with in the management of interiors, here amounts to a fault, not without precedent in the artist's works. The group entitled *Daughters of F. Young, Esq.* (597), though full of sweetness and speaking portraiture, yet produces a pale effect from the half tints of the foliage behind. This colouring, when occurring in such works as those of Sir Joshua Reynolds, was accompanied by brighter and more elaborate flesh tints, thus brought out by contrast; still more is this the case in the Italian pictures of figures placed in a landscape. Here, however, the faces of the children show no particular warmth of colour, and thus the tone of the whole subject is kept too low.

The picture by Mr. Frith (74), telling its own tale too plainly to need a name, is one of those which endears itself to every eye, from its direct appeal to the best affections. When once the sympathies are enlisted, and that so simply and powerfully as in this instance, it is idle to talk of mere painting, or to expatiate on the merits of that delineation which we can all appreciate, even to allude to that truth of portraiture of which report speaks so highly. Severe, indeed, must be the feeling of religious reserve, or bitter the hostility to all devotion whatever, that can withhold the spectator's admiration. In the striking subject by the same artist, *Pope makes love to Lady Mary Wortley Montagu* (336), the interest of the scene will attract no less attention, and will invite multifarious criticism. The faults appear to us to be a want of depth in the chamber, which gives an unpleasant flatness to the *locale* of the amusing scene, and the too dead whiteness of the lady's complexion. Never, however, was a more *riante* figure more boldly and gaily cast; indeed the *insouciance* of her laugh is only possible on the supposition of her not being able to see her companion's look of combined malignity and despair. It is too awful for such mirth. Much, however, as we are amused at his discomfiture, it is a little alarming to find this among the other concomitants of poetical fame; and if the irritable bard could rise from his grave, and find his moments of weakness displayed to the thousand eyes of a laughing posterity, he would have hesitated before he talked of "purusing the triumph and partaking the gale" in the wake of the splendid Bolingbroke. A foretaste of this would have sobered his visions, and even appeased for a moment the rancorous envy of the Dunciad heroes. In the *Portraits* (292 and 392),

we notice those faults, which are a sort of price the artist pays for his marvellous clearness and vividness of style. More depth and more light and shade might detract from the power, but surely they would add to the natural truthfulness of these figures.

Mr. Leslie appears this year with only one picture, *Juliet* (154), which public opinion seems to agree in pronouncing unfortunate, as to the expression of the heroine's face; indeed it is such as will be found difficult to admire: again, in the pink colouring of the flesh, the long arms, and even the attitude of the figure, beauty is sacrificed, without any corresponding advantage being gained.

A variation in the style with which the public are familiar in the works of Mr. Frank Stone, is a proof of the facility and the resource of his pencil. The subject, entitled *Portrait of Dr. Hooker, in the Rhododendron region of the Himalaya Mountains* (501), which represents the naturalist seated amongst his native plant-collectors, whilst close by him are depicted certain striking specimens of the flora of those regions, is in a style equally novel and pleasing. We have no longer to admire the successful display of deep yet refined feeling in the eloquent features of youths and maidens. The force of the present scene resides in the contrast of European and Asiatic form and costume, and in the peculiarities of Eastern scenery. The very easy yet highly characteristic attitudes of the group of Lepchas are among the successes of art; and Mr. Stone has been equally happy in extracting the true elements of beauty from the unpromising Eastern cast of countenance. The peculiar green of the pine trees, and the character of the shrubs and flowers, have been studied with regard to the peculiarities of a lofty region, yet one of rapid vegetation, and we may imagine ourselves transported to the skirts of the Himalaya, or the flower-bearing valleys of Nepaul, where the snows of winter and the rich products of the tropics can be embraced in a simultaneous view. Highly pleasing in itself, the picture adds the charm of novelty to its other attractions.

The *Scene from Cymbeline* (102) presents a contrast in the figures of Imogen and Pisanio, which is decidedly in favour of the former—a very simple and beautiful figure, with a sweetness in the features that scarcely leads one to suspect the deep and earnest passions that lie underneath that gentle exterior. At the *Opera* (388), and *A Country Girl* (362), are evidently a pair, representing the same individual under these differing circumstances. The air and attitude of the latter are perhaps the more suitable to the subject, inasmuch as an expression of higher excitement, or more active intelligence, may be supposed to be the appropriate state of feeling of one who is enjoying a musical performance. The beauty and fulness of face and form in both subjects, particularly the latter, are most conspicuous.

Mr. Frost's principal picture, *May Morning* (315), is replete with his grace and delicacy; it is also boldly drawn, though the treatment of the subject is anything but original as to composition. The *Nymph and Cupid* (309) is finished with equal refinement, with a broad light upon the female figure, as though it had been studied from a marble group. In neither picture can the artist be thought to have advanced upon his former works.

Of Mr. Elmore's two pictures, *The Novice* (353) will attract more attention than *A Subject from Pepys' Diary* (248), though it contains less composition and fewer figures. The idea of the former being original, and carrying the expression of so well known and interesting a sentiment along with it, will recommend it to all. The contrast of conventional and gay life is heightened by the aged figure of the nun behind, whilst a portrait of Saint Theresa on the walls suggests that not the grating or the veil, the serge dress or solitary cell, can extinguish, though they may divert, the passions into new channels. In the scene from 'Pepys' Diary,' the well-known portrait of the hero is excellent, but there is something theatrical about the painter's figure, and an error of drawing in the face of the standing female is an obvious blemish in the

picture. Still the group is interesting, and the distribution of the light good.

Mr. P. F. Poole's beautiful head of *The May Queen* (279), in that style of country life which he has so much enriched and adorned, will be seen with greater general pleasure than his larger group of *Marina Singing to her Father Pericles* (411), though the latter is in many respects a masterly composition. But more decided colours seem wanting to represent adequately the importance of a group in this higher style of art; and that peculiarly pearl-grey tint which is characteristic of the artist is out of place in the piece of drapery lying on deck. Firmness and fulness are needed to complete the excellent design of this subject.

Mr. Charles Landseer, in his *Painter's Study* (92), has given a clear and powerful rendering of a variety of arranged objects. *The Death of Edward III.* (47) is a piece of mere composition, where the subject is very clearly, if not too plainly, told. Less demonstration and more refinement of feeling would have increased the effect; whilst there is richness in the colouring. In the figure (99), a handsome face has been employed for a study, which, however, does not display more intellect than is indicated by the name it bears. The subsidiary parts of this picture are clearly painted, and have a pleasing effect.

MUSIC.

The Flauto Magico was revived at the ROYAL ITALIAN OPERA on Tuesday, for the purpose of bringing forward Mdlle. Anna Zerr in the character of *Astrifiamante*, in which she made so signal a success last year; and whatever may have been the expectations raised by her triumph on that occasion, they were abundantly redeemed on Tuesday. It is a part unapproachable by any but a singer of the highest powers, with a soprano of the highest compass, the famous air, 'Gli angui d' inferno,' being, perhaps, the severest vocal test to which the voice can be subjected. The intensity of utterance and certainty of intonation with which Mdlle. Zerr threw out her high notes in this song can scarcely be conceived. Throughout the whole part she was greeted with enthusiastic applause as deserved as it was genuine. It has long been a great part of hers at Vienna, and it will remain hers here also. Her voice is essentially German in quality, occasionally thin, but capable of the most powerful effort. In person she is slight but elegant, and her acting is graceful and ladylike. Ronconi as *Papageno* was full of the richest whimsicality, and sang the music of his part with consummate skill. Formes as *Sarastro* was most impressive and priest-like, and sang, especially 'Qui sdegno,' superbly. Of Mario's *Tamino* we would gladly escape speaking. It was an unworthy performance. He might and ought to have made the part what Mozart intended—one of importance. Mario's voice, or his discretion, appears to be failing him. We fear it is both. *Lucia di Lammermoor* was brought out at the same theatre on Thursday, with Anna Zerr as *Lucia*, Herr Ander as *Edgardo*, Ronconi as *Arturo*, and a new baritone, Signor Bartolini, as *Enrico*. Mdlle. Zerr's *Lucia* is the impersonation of passionate tenderness, and she was thoroughly successful, though scarcely so striking as in her other part. Herr Ander's *Edgardo* is of the same character as Mdlle. Zerr's *Lucia*, purely German. They both lack much of the finish we have been accustomed to look for in these parts, but in purity of style, true musical feeling, and impassioned fervour, they are strikingly alike. They were most warmly applauded. The new baritone is a useful singer, has a powerful but rather coarse voice, and his manner partakes of the same qualities. Ronconi sang well, but nothing more.

The fourth of the series of the NEW PHILHARMONIC concerts was held on Wednesday. The great feature of attraction was Beethoven's choral symphony—a work so colossal in character as to dwarf even the grandest of his other conceptions. It is confessedly so rife in difficulties of every description, that any hope to hear it ever performed as it

ought to be has long been regarded as forlorn. If on Wednesday night perfection was not arrived at, it is not to be wondered at. It certainly has never been so nearly approached before. The vocal solos were very capable of improvement; and we suspect that had Mr. Sims Reeves taken more pains to rehearse his part it would have been far better. The chorus, on the other hand, acquitted themselves most creditably under difficulties such as choristers do not often have to grapple with. As for the instrumental execution, it was such as can only be heard at these concerts, where masses of sound are dealt with by an orchestra and conductor singularly gifted for the task. The mode in which M. Berlioz brought out the almost interminable variety of expression which pervades the work was most masterly, and could only have been accomplished by the severest rehearsals. The allegro with which it opens, in D minor, so complex and intricate in character, the brisk and joyous scherzo which follows it, the dreamy adagio in B flat that breathes so deliciously of calm and repose, were given by this fine orchestra with the nicest perception of musical feeling and consummate instrumental skill. The applause of the auditory, which was often absolutely vociferous, testified their full appreciation of the merits both of the work and the mode of its performance. Berlioz was clamorously recalled, after he had retired under a shower of plaudits, to receive another hearty *salvo*. The directors have done themselves the highest credit by the production of this unequalled work. Mdlle. Clauss, who won such golden opinions at the Musical Union, was again heard to great advantage in Mendelssohn's difficult concerto, into the true style and spirit of which she fully entered. She will become, we are satisfied, an *artiste* of the first rank.

On the same morning, the QUARTETT ASSOCIATION gave the second of their fine classical performances, at Willis's Rooms, when a new quartett by Mr. G. A. Macfarren was done every justice to by Sainton, Cooper, Hill, and Piatti. It is not a work of genius by any means, but extremely clever, musician-like, and full of ingenious devices. Mendelssohn's Second Trio, by Mdlle. Clauss, Sainton, and Piatti, was beautifully played, the scherzo being encored.

There has been only one novelty at Paris during the week, a revival of Boieldieu's *Voitures Versées*, —a pleasant little piece. Mdlle. Feval made her *début* in it; she is a promising singer. The *Juif Errant* is carrying all before it at the Académie Royale. Any other novelty, of the same pretensions, got up with the same magnificence, would do the same for a few weeks; but it remains to be seen whether the *Juif* possesses that musical excellence which can alone secure it permanent possession of the stage. The new lyrical theatre, the Opéra National, has been closed for the summer.

The musical world at Berlin has been consoled for the loss of Mdlle. Wagner by the appearance of Mdlle. Liebhart, from Vienna. Mdlle. Liebhart has had great success in the *Figlia del Reggimento*, the *Flauto Magico*, and the *Huguenots*.

A strange piece has been acted at Frankfort. Its title is *Shakespeare; or, The Dream of a Summer Night*, and it is announced as a comic opera by A. Thomas.

The Czar of Russia, says the Leipsic 'Musik Zeitung,' has conferred on Signor Tamburini the order of St. Andreas, the chief and family order of the Romanows.

THE DRAMA.

THE only dramatic novelty this week has been the announcement of a series of German plays at the ST. JAMES'S. As our readers were informed of this a fortnight ago, by our correspondent at Dresden, it may be well to refer back to his letter, (*ante*, p. 390,) in which he speaks of Emil Devrient being the pride of the Dresden boards, and competent to give us a worthy representation of *Hamlet*, and of Goethe's *Egmont*. The company has been selected by Mr. Mitchell from the theatres of Dresden, Stuttgart, Darmstadt, Brunswick, Prague, Nürnberg,

Leipsic, and Dantzig, and include the names of Emil Devrient, Grunert, Kühn, Wilhelmi, Stolte, Müller, Eppert, Stromeyer, and Nötel. The first performance, which is announced to take place early in June, will be *Egmont*, and the *répertoire* includes *Hamlet*, *Romeo and Juliet*, Goethe's *Faust*, Schiller's *Robbers*, *Intrigue and Love*, and *Don Carlos*, Lessing's *Emilia Galotti*, Raupach's *Death of Cromwell*, and a number of dramas and comedies by living authors.

The dramatic profession has lost one of its most distinguished members, by the death of Mr. W. H. Murray, who was for upwards of thirty years the manager of the Edinburgh theatre. Mr. Murray died suddenly, at St. Andrews, on the 6th instant, from disease of the heart, at the age of sixty-two. He retired from the management of the Edinburgh theatre last year, leaving behind him the reputation of great and varied abilities as an actor, and of success as a manager, unrivalled in the provinces. For many years Mr. Murray's health has been known to his friends to be fluctuating and precarious, and often, when his powers of humour were convulsing his audience, he was suffering under the physical and mental depression of a shaken constitution, and an over-sensitive temperament. Mr. Murray, besides being one of the few artists in his profession, was a man of high intellectual attainments, and full of the most varied information. It was said of him, we believe, by John Kemble, that if you wanted information on any subject, William Murray, if he could not give it himself, could at least tell you where to get it. As a writer he must have earned a distinguished reputation, had he laid himself out for honours in this direction. His occasional addresses, often written and spoken within a few hours, were models of pointed wit, catching the salient topic of the day, and presenting it at once in the happiest aspect, and in verse scarcely unworthy of Pope himself. Garrick's talent in this department, great as it was, was eclipsed by Mr. Murray's. His powers of conversation were great, and none who have come within the range of their fascination, are likely to forget them. Of late years he mingled little in society, owing to a peculiar sensitiveness of disposition, which occasionally reached almost a morbid degree. He numbered among his friends all the most distinguished men of the Scottish metropolis, in the days when it could boast of many whose distinction was European. By all he was esteemed for professional integrity; and many a brow will shade over at the tidings of the death of an actor who is coupled in their remembrance with so many happy hours. As an actor his range was very varied. He was always refined in his gayest moments, and had the art of moving pathos in the same line as Farren, and with scarcely inferior power. One charm he had above all others, of spontaneous humour, which gave a perpetual play to his comic acting that was truly delightful.

Mdlle. Rachel has made another appearance in the modern drama, at the Théâtre Français. The piece she selected was *Louise de Lignerolles*; a sentimental production of no great merit. She, as usual, displayed talent of a lofty order; but not such as to prevent her admirers from lamenting her temporary abandonment of classical tragedy. At the same theatre Delavigne's comedy, the *Ecole des Vieillards*, has been revived. It was performed with a negligence very seldom displayed by the accomplished troupe of the Rue Richelieu. At the Odéon Madame A. Segalas, a poetess of considerable merit, has produced, with success, a lively little two-act comedy, called *Les Absens ont Raison*.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENCE.

Dresden, May 9th, 1852.
GEORGE WIGAND, the eminent Leipsic publisher, is about to bring out a new work of considerable interest. It is to be called Schnor's Bible, and will consist of between two and three hundred illustrations by Schnor, cut in wood by Bürkner and Gaber; it will appear in numbers, each containing

eight woodcuts, without letterpress, at the price of about one shilling English money. It is expected that the cheapness of the work, coupled with the celebrity of Schnor as an artist, and the acknowledged talent of the engravers, will produce for it an extraordinary sale. About one hundred and fifty of the drawings are already in an advanced state, and the first number will probably appear in the course of the next few weeks.

The first number of Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm's German Dictionary is just out. It would be premature to criticise the work in its present stage; it seems, however, to be most carefully and accurately compiled. It is printed in large octavo form, in double columns, on good paper, and in a clear print. Some idea may be formed of the labour which has been expended on this work, from the fact that all the leisure time of a learned professor has been devoted for the last three years to reading through the works of Goethe alone in connexion with it. The first number consists of one hundred and twenty pages, and contains about half the letter A.

The picture gallery is again open for the summer months, but the coldness of the weather keeps it comparatively empty. Two pictures have been added to the collection since last year,—one is in the manner of Correggio, and painted probably by one of his contemporaries; it is the half-length figure of a woman reading, and though rather weak in expression, is still a very pretty picture; the other is the portrait of a man, by Juan de las Roelas. I conclude this artist to be the Don Paolo de las Roelas whom Lanzi speaks of as mentioned by Prezioso, who in mature age became a priest and canon, and who had painted a grand picture in the church of San Toclovo at Seville. It is not perhaps generally known that there is a great store of some two or three hundred pictures here, belonging to the gallery, and a few of which are from time to time brought out, cleaned, and restored. Murillo's *Madonna and Child* is now on the easel to be copied; it was pierced through with four bullets in the last revolution, and the four canvas patches on the back of the picture are distinctly visible. A large picture which hung above it on the same wall, and which was probably not thought worth restoring, bears the marks of from five-and-twenty to thirty bullet-holes.

Persiani, Tamburini, Rossi, and Puzzolini have been performing in Dresden, on their way from St. Petersburg to England. In my last letter I omitted to mention the performance in the theatre, on Palm Sunday, of a new oratorio by Reissiger. It consists of detached scenes from the life of David, so strung together as to be entirely devoid of dramatic interest. There is much in the music that is pleasing, but, like all works of this composer, it is wanting in originality, and the general effect is heavy.

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|-------|----------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|--|
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| 35 .. | 1838 .. | £1000 .. | £176 19 8 | in Two | |
| 45 .. | 1838 .. | £1000 .. | £219 6 6 | Septennial | |
| 53 .. | 1838 .. | £1000 .. | £235 19 8 | Divisions | |
| 61 .. | 1838 .. | £1000 .. | £268 1 3 | of Profits. | |
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| 66 .. | 1844 .. | £1000 .. | £94 15 8 | of Profits. | |

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ROYAL NAVAL, MILITARY, EAST INDIA, and GENERAL LIFE ASSURANCE SOCIETY, 13, Waterloo Place, London.

April 2nd, 1852.

At a Court of Directors held this day, Robert Lee, Esq., M.D., F.R.S., of 4, Savile Row, Burlington Gardens, was elected Physician to this Society, vice Sir Charles Ferguson Forbes, M.D., deceased.

By order of the Court,
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E G M O N T,

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[May 15]

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